FRIDAY
July 21, 2023

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
18 Pages ₹ 6.00

THE HINDU

www.thehindu.com

INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

FOLLOW US
facebook.com/thehindu
twitter.com/the_hindu
instagram.com/the_hindu

Vol.54 • No.172

Printed at » Chennai » Coimbatore » Bengaluru » Hyderabad » Madurai » Noida » Visakhapatnam » Thiruvananthapuram » Kochi » Vijayawada » Mangaluru » Tiruchirapalli » Kolkata » Hubballi » Mohali » Malappuram » Mumbai » Tirupati » Lucknow » Cuttack » Patna

RECURRING DEATHS

SC suggests shifting cheetahs out of Kuno

NEWS » PAGE 12

TRAGEDY IN RAIGAD

16 killed after landslip in Maharashtra

NEWS » PAGE 12

TWIN ACCIDENTS

9 dead as car ploughs into crowd in Gujarat

NEWS » PAGE 10

PARLEY

Discussing delimitation and its fallout

Seats remain frozen as per 1971 Census

OPINION » PAGE 9

STRONG REPLY

Crawley's rapid ton powers England

SPORT » PAGE 15

Constitution Bench to take up Delhi services case

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday referred the Delhi government's challenge to a Central Ordinance – which effectively returns power over the civil services in the national capital to the Lieutenant-Governor – to a Constitution Bench.

The reference to a Constitution Bench coincided with the opening of the Monsoon Session of Parliament.

On July 17, the Centre urged the court to hold its hand, as the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Ordinance, 2023, would be introduced in Parliament during the session.

"We will refer this to the Constitution Bench," Chief Justice Chandrachud addressed the lawyers.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10

SC 'deeply disturbed', orders Centre, Manipur govt. to act

Taking *suo motu* cognisance of sexual assault video, court issues ultimatum to governments to bring perpetrators to book or step aside for it to take action; S-G to convey concern to Centre

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud summoned the government's top law officers – the Attorney-General and Solicitor-General – on Thursday to convey that the court was "deeply disturbed" by a video showing two women being paraded naked and sexually assaulted in strife-ridden Manipur. The Chief Justice, speaking for the court, gave the Union and Manipur governments an ultimatum to either bring the perpetrators to book or step aside for the judiciary to take action.

"Using women as instruments of perpetrating violence in a charged atmosphere is simply unacceptable in a constitutional democracy," the court emphasised in its order.

> Using women as instruments of perpetrating violence in a charged atmosphere is simply unacceptable in a constitutional democracy... We direct both the Centre and the Manipur government to take immediate steps and to apprise the court of the action taken before the next date of listing
>
> SUPREME COURT

The Chief Justice's remarks came immediately after the court assembled for the day's work. Attorney-General R. Venkataramani and Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta were waiting in the front row of the courtroom.

"The court is deeply disturbed by the visuals which have appeared in the media since yesterday depicting the perpetration of sexual assault and violence on women in Manipur," the three-judge Bench, headed by the CJI, said, addressing the two law officers.

Taking *suo motu* cognisance of the video, the court said the visuals indicate "gross constitutional violations and infractions of human rights".

Chief Justice Chandrachud said that it did not matter that the video was not a recent one, but rather of an incident that occurred in May, when the violence initially broke out. "What matters is that this is just simply unacceptable... This is the grossest of constitutional and human rights violations... We are expressing our deep concern... We will give the government a little time to take action or we will take action," Chief Justice warned.

Mr. Venkataramani assured the court that he would convey its concern to the government.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10

Law will act with full might on guilty: PM

Nistula Hebbar
NEW DELHI

Expressing "anguish and anger" at the sexual assault of two women in Manipur that came to light in a viral video, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday vowed that the guilty would not be spared and the law would act with its "full might".

"What happened in Manipur cannot be forgiven," he said, during his customary remarks at the start of the Monsoon Session of Parliament. This was Mr. Modi's first comment on the situation in Manipur ever since ethnic clashes broke out on May 3.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10

Four held in Manipur sexual assault case

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh said on Thursday that none of the guilty in the May 4 sexual violence case will be spared, adding that he got to know of the incident only after a video went viral on Wednesday. He said the government will seek capital punishment for the accused. The police said four persons have been arrested.

Manipur Governor Anusuiya Uikey asked Director-General of Police Rajiv Singh to provide security to the victims, if required.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 10

State govt. favours ST tag for Kurubas

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

In a significant move, the State government on Thursday recommended to the Centre that the Kuruba community (currently under OBC list) be brought under the Scheduled Tribes (ST) category.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah belongs to the Kuruba community. In a letter to the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Principal Secretary (Social Welfare) Manivannan P. stated that the government had received several representations from the Kuruba community associations seeking inclusion in the ST list.

It cited a report by the Mysuru-based Karnataka State Tribal Research Institute that carried out an ethnographic study of the community and submitted a report in March this year.

METROPLUS » PAGE 7

With Coyle returning to its fold, Chennaiyin FC oozes promise

The renowned coach has an enviable track record with two clubs in the ISL — when he replaced Gregory at CFC in the 2019-20 season, the team was at the bottom of the table and he took it to the final, and in the next season helped an unfancied Jamshedpur FC claim the Winner's Shield

S. Prasanna Venkatesan

Owen Coyle at Chennaiyin FC finds himself in the position that Mauricio Pochettino at Chelsea does. Does he agree?

"(Chuckles) I agree that both of us have very difficult jobs ahead of us. Chelsea could go and spend whatever they want to spend. So, I do agree in terms of, we're both coming in at clubs with a great history and clubs that have not got to the heights that everybody has known them to be at before. I do agree on that. Obviously, it's different circumstances in terms of how we both go about it," he said over a Zoom call.

The announcement that he's taking over as the head coach of Chennaiyin was unanimously joyously welcomed by the fans. "The club couldn't have signed anyone better!" said a fan on a YouTube show. "The club should have done this much earlier so that we needn't have suffered!" gushed another fan.

Chennaiyin assistant coach Raman Vijayan said that even the players and the members of the team management are high on positive morale and hope.

Just why is the 57-year-old a hit in the Indian Super League (ISL)?

Impressive showing

Just like Pochettino with Tottenham Hotspur in the English Premier League (EPL), Coyle has an enviable track record with not one but two clubs in the ISL. In the 2019-20 season, when he replaced John Gregory at Chennaiyin, the team was at the bottom of the table and thus dispirited. But his takeover took the team on a fairytale run that saw it win eight successive matches and reach the final.

The next season, he goes to Jamshedpur FC and the club wins its first major silverware – the ISL League Winner's Shield!

"I think we understand there's a reason for it (the fans' reaction). The reaction is based on the body of work that we have done – from coming to Chennai and from being at the bottom of the league and going to the final. And then, obviously, what we did at Jamshedpur – to take a club that had never been to the playoffs, not only to the playoffs, but to actually make it win the shield.

"So, the fans' reaction for me coming in is because they know the quality of work that we bring," said the coach.

Both weren't relatively big-money and star-studded clubs. He made stars out of unheralded players – Lallianzuala Chhangte is a case in point.

"I think every club in every season enters the league wanting to be the very best. Obviously, the ISL is changing every year and the big clubs are getting bigger and are spending far more money to try and achieve that. But as I've shown before, although there are big spends and big teams, it doesn't automatically mean that they are going to win. I've shown it with a small club like Jamshedpur, with a team of players that nobody thought they could play in their teams.

"So, obviously having the most money and being able to spend will get you known players, players that have a pedigree. People have different ways to do different things. We will obviously have to do that differently because we won't have the spending power of those," said Coyle.

> The important thing is, whatever has happened before counts for nothing. This is a clean slate, we're obviously starting from a position with a lot of work to do. But equally that's why we are excited about it
>
> **OWEN COYLE**
> Head coach, Chennaiyin FC

Good man-manager

Raman Vijayan says, "Coyle is a great player manager – he knows how to manage the players. That's a very important thing in India, in ISL. To teach something new is almost impossible in ISL. The one who has the capability to bring out the best from the players will be the best coach. In that aspect, he always brings out the best in the players.

"After John Gregory left in the 2019-20 season, the team was totally hopeless about the rest of its campaign that season. So, Coyle gave confidence to the disheartened players and made it into an able attacking unit. The same players who'd played under the previous coach, were totally different under him. Somehow, he's so connected with our Indian players. That's very lucky for us!

"Even the staff who've worked with him want to work with him again. Simply put, people love to work with him!"

Midfielder Edwin Sydney Vanspaul has said that Coyle knows exactly what is to be done and focuses only on that; that he doesn't force the players and doesn't make them exert themselves unnecessarily. He added that the highlight of the coach is his effective and impactful training sessions.

Coyle also knows that he doesn't have the same core group that performed well under him in his previous stint. And as Raman Vijayan and Edwin have pointed out, he's looking forward to build a new core for the club and elevate the players individually as well.

According to Coyle, "the important thing is, whatever has happened before counts for nothing. This is a clean slate, we're obviously starting from a position with a lot of work to do. But equally that's why we are excited about it. It gives us a chance to look at all the players, give them an opportunity, understand that some of them will be able to improve and develop with us and we will help them. And as we do, as I've done previously, when a transfer window comes up and there's one or two players that I like – they might not necessarily be the first choices on our team – but if I see something in them that I can help and improve with, then that's what we'll look to do."

Infrastructure the biggest thing

Asked how ISL could improve, Coyle said: "Certainly, the more games the players play, the better; the more improvement will come from the players. But with such a big country, the biggest single thing will be infrastructure. And don't get me wrong, that takes huge finance. But if we can get the infrastructure at the base, then we have far more young Indian players.

"The players will be better and the National team will be better. I certainly hope in time, India will be in the World Cup. But we need the infrastructure at the grassroots for that."

Balram Singh, with his children, Lalit Mohan, left, Shalini and Ashutosh. KAMESH SRINIVASAN

Balram and family have served tennis with distinction

Kamesh Srinivasan

In Indian tennis, there are many unsung heroes and Balram Singh should rank right at the top of that list. In fact, the amiable 75-year-old Balram, who has donned many hats in Indian tennis, heads a tennis family that is second to none in the country.

Balram's brothers, Madhusudan, Hanuman, Anand Shankar, Arjun, and Nar Singh played the game with distinction at various levels, and were associated with the game as coaches as well.

Balram's three children, Lalit Mohan, Shalini Thakur Chawla and Ashutosh have had fairly successful careers in tennis, and are associated with the game both at the national and international level.

Two-time Wimbledon semifinalist Ramanathan Krishnan put Balram's contribution to Indian tennis in perspective, in a crisp video message on his 75th birthday recently.

Pleasant memories

"I have known Balram from his childhood. I have very pleasant memories. When I was playing my best tennis, he was coming up. I played some very good matches with him. Before Davis Cup matches, we used to have him as a practice member. He used to hit the ball quite hard and that helped us get used to the pace. What I liked about Balram was that he made the Indian circuit interesting. He along with Narendra Singh played all the tournaments in India and played competitive matches," recalled Krishnan.

Another pioneer of Indian tennis, CGK Bhupathi, who is the father of multiple Grand Slam champion Mahesh, also sent a message. Others like Jaidip Mukerjea, Harsh Mankad, Enrico Piperno, Gaurav Mishra, Nandan Bal, Rohit Rajpalspoke with warmth and admiration about Balram.

"I cannot forget the wonderful years. We were 15-years-old when we first met. We travelled the whole world together. Tennis was our base. You have a nice and growing family of children and grand children," said CGK.

Balram had a sterling career as a player. He had made the quarterfinals of Wimbledon and US Open junior events, apart from the World juniors. Balram was also the coach of the national team in the Beijing Asian Games in 1990. Apart from being secretary of the Delhi Lawn Tennis Association (DLTA), Balram also serves in the national selection committee.

The best tennis among his three children was played by Ashutosh – who was a two time National champion on grass and hard courts. He was also the National doubles champion with Vishaal Uppal. He captures the essence of life lessons learnt from his father.

Shalini's contributions

Balram's daughter Shalini, was No. 1 in the country in the under-14, 16 and 18 age groups and No. 3 among the women. She represented the country at various levels and was captain and coach for the recent Billie Jean King Cup.

Balram's eldest son, Lalit Mohan did not pursue tennis as a player or coach much after being captain of Hindu College.

He was the review official for Hawk Eye, during the women's final and men's doubles final in Wimbledon last year.

Lalit swears by two qualities that he has grasped from his father and imbibed into his system.

"Self belief and work ethic help me cruise through difficult situations," said Lalit.

Behind every successful man, there is a woman. Ashutosh highlights the role of their mother Ashmina, as the "Rock of Gibraltar" that has helped the family thrive.

It is very difficult to find so many tennis players from a family, across generations, serving the game with such remarkable success. The family is like a highly efficient engine, helping champions in their path to success.

GAME TIME

Test your knowledge of the most famous grasscourt championship in the world

Nihit Sachdeva

QUESTION 1
Which player holds the record of playing the most Grand Slam finals in the Open era?

QUESTION 2
Before Carlos Alcaraz this year, who was the last player other than the Big Four — Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal, Novak Djokovic and Andy Murray - to win the men's singles title at Wimbledon?

QUESTION 3
Who recently became only the 10th woman in the Open era to reach the French Open final and lose in the first round of Wimbledon in the same season?

QUESTION 4
Which two players played the longest tiebreak in a women's singles match at a Major at this year's Wimbledon?

QUESTION 5
Who was the first left-handed woman to win the singles titles at The Championships in the Open era?

QUESTION 6
The 2023 Wimbledon men's singles final between Djokovic and Alcaraz was the 51st instance of a particular match-up in the men's Grand Slam history. What is being talked about here?

QUESTION 7
Goran Ivanisevic, the current coach of Djokovic, became the first wildcard to win Wimbledon in 2001. Who did he beat in the final?

QUESTION 8
Apart from Alcaraz, which other player has beaten Djokovic in a five-set Grand Slam final?

QUESTION 9
How many consecutive tiebreakers did Djokovic win at Slams this year before Alcaraz ended his streak in the Wimbledon final?

THE ANSWERS...

1. Novak Djokovic (35); 2. Lleyton Hewitt (2002); 3. Karolina Muchova; 4. Lesia Tsurenko and Ana Bogdan (Tsurenko won 20-18); 5. Ann Jones (1969); 6. It was the 51st time in the Open era that a men's singles Grand Slam summit clash was contested between the top two seeds; 7. Pat Rafter; 8. Andy Murray; 9. 15; 10. Roman Safiullin.

Question 10
Identify this player who was one of the three Russian men to reach the quarterfinals at this year's Wimbledon? GETTY IMAGES

J&K Bank
Serving To Empower
YOUR BANK SINCE 1938

Touching Lives. Transforming Dreams.

With **20 Million Accounts**

We are one of the oldest private sector banks in India

Serving you since 1938

With customised and computerised banking solutions, futuristic vision, dedicated and responsive workforce, impeccable reputation and a passion to excel, **J&K Bank** inspires the quality of life and business in **every way, every day.**

No wonder, it has achieved the **highest ever profit** and **decadal high CRAR alongwith best asset quality figures over last 8 years.**

Savings Schemes
Deposit Schemes
Business Accounts
Retail Banking
Digital Banking
NRI services
SME Loans
Corporate Services

Baldev Prakash
MD & CEO

"Guided by its remarkable legacy of serving to empower, J&K Bank continues to empower people financially especially youth so that they pursue and realize not only their own economic pursuits but establish employment generating entrepreneurial ventures. Across its areas of operation, the Bank equips people with financial awareness besides counselling and handholding them to realise their aspirations of becoming self-reliant and self-sufficient, which is the core objective of Union Government's Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan.

One of the glaring instances of Bank's huge and ongoing financial intervention in terms of employment generation was evident last year when out of all the banks operating in the UT, J&K Bank contributed more than 90% in providing self-employment opportunities to over 92000 youth of J&K during the UT Government's flagship programs i.e. 'Back to Village (B2V-4)' in every Gram Panchayat of rural areas and 'My Town My Pride (MTMP-2)' at blocks in urban areas. In future also, J&K Bank will whole-heartedly support the creation of livelihoods for people through an array of financial products and Government Sponsored Schemes.

Recently the Bank kick-started 'Employment Generation Campaign' titled "Swarozgar Utsav" for providing gainful self-employment to youth of Jammu & Kashmir. The campaign has a target number of one lac employments.

Moreover, J&K Bank remains at the heart of economic architecture of the UTs of J&K and Ladakh, which is primarily driven by horticulture and tourism along with its allied industries like handicrafts. And after witnessing 2022 as a remarkable tourism year with record tourist arrivals in the history of the UT, employment creation in the tourism and its allied sectors is on the upward swing in J&K.

From shikarawallah to houseboats on the waters of Dal Lake, from a tourist lodge in Gulmarg to five star hotel in Katra, from a taxi operator to ponywallah engaged in yatra activities, from an apple orchard to nuts factory, from a pashmina loom to new-age bakery outlet, from the world famous basmati of Jammu to the finest apricots of Ladakh; there are more than 70% chances that J&K Bank is related to each of these in one or the other way. And it is this reach and emotional connect that inspires us to keep serving the people across our operational geographies with best in class products and services.
Also, J&K Bank has the privilege of serving Shri Amarnath Ji Yatris right from their registration across the country to providing them with easy, swift and secure banking services including cash deposition and cash dispensation facilities through a number of ATMs/Micro ATMs at the Holy Cave and different base camps.
The Bank also provides cash collections facilities to Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board right at the Holy Cave.

Significantly, after putting in place strategies to expand our business in rest of the country, our loan growth has been quite fast during the last financial year. Loans extended in rest of India formed 32% of our total loan book and we plan to increase it considerably in coming quarters.

Now having achieved our highest-ever annual profit in FY 2022-23, I foresee J&K Bank as one of the best banks in the country positioned strategically to engage with a larger and more diverse clientele nationally and keep increasing its share in the business-pie on sustainable basis.

And with golden values like dedication, discipline and drive for excellence, we are progressing ahead and our profitability along with upward trend in most operational parameters hold a great promise for all our stakeholders in days to come."

Our awards and accolades

Infosys Finacle Innovation Awards 2023

Awarded for promoting digital payments

MSME Banking Excellence Awards-2022

Best performance award for implementing PMEGP in North India

FOR ASSISTANCE CALL 1800 890 2122 | LOG ON TO **www.jkbank.com** | FOLLOW US ON

A BG-BGE

Death by water: awareness can prevent drowning casualties

World Drowning Prevention Day is on July 25, here is an attempt to study the subject and implement various expert advisories on safe spaces; in 2021 there were 36,362 drowning deaths reported of which children were a large number

Zubeda Hamid
Zubeda.h@thehindu.co.in

Drowning claims the lives of hundreds of children every year in India. GETTY IMAGES

Last month, the world was on tenterhooks as a tiny submersible, the Titan, with five passengers, was lost, thousands of feet below the North Atlantic's surface, while it was attempting to take tourists to the *Titanic's* final resting place on the ocean floor.

Rescue efforts were mounted in a race against time, only to find the sub had imploded shortly after descent, killing all five aboard. That same week a fishing boat sank off the Greek coast. It had on board over 500 people, migrants, predominantly from Pakistan, Syria and Egypt. This made it one of the deadliest shipwrecks involving migrants. This incident barely made any impression on prime time or news agendas.

Drowning deaths capture headlines from time to time, when they involve large numbers, or larger-than-life people, but what is less frequently mentioned, is the many drownings, predominantly of children that take place in India every day: according to the National Crime Records Bureau's statistics for 2021, there were 36,362 drowning deaths reported, forming 9.3% of accidental deaths in the country.Prevention, say experts, is the key to curbing drowning deaths in India, as rescue and resuscitation efforts may not always be timely or feasible. And prevention involves several measures, at the safe behavioural and infrastructural levels.

Children at high risk

Children are at the largest risk of drowning in India, and even reported figures are an underestimate, as most cases never make it to the hospital and are not recorded, says Jagnoor Jagnoor of the George Institute for Global Health, co-director,WHO Collaborating Centre for injury prevention and trauma. "The risk is highest in the one to six year age group, followed by the 6 -14 age group in India, especially in rural and remote areas. There is this perception that if a child grows up near a waterbody, he or she will automatically learn how to swim, but this is emphatically not true," she says. Dr Jagnoor points to two key aspects in the drowning deaths of children: the lack of supervision and the lack of physical barriers on waterbodies.

Safe space

Supervision, says Rakhi Dandona, professor at the Public Health Foundation of India and the University of Washington, needs to be thought of in a broad-based manner: "When a parent is working, either in the home or outside, there needs to be a safe space available for the child. There is a tendency to apportion the responsibility and the blame on mothers alone, but this needs to change," she says. While *anganwadis*, government-provided child care centres for children under six, do function, they are not consistently present in all parts of the country, says Dr. Jagnoor. Access to and availability of safe spaces could go a long way in preventing drowning.

Barricading

The other issue is the safe storage of water and barricading access to it where necessary. Measures such as these have shown some success in the Philippines, says Dr. Jagnoor, but involve behavioural change and sustained efforts to keep them going. "Safe storage needs to begin at home: a child can drown even in a bucket of water. Actionable awareness on this, for communities, is essential," adds Dr Dandona.

The barricading of wells, ponds and other small waterbodies by government authorities and the prevention of unauthorised access are also necessary steps towards building safer environments and communities, according to Dr. Jagnoor.

This however, can be challenging as many open water sources are used by local communities for bathing and washing, says Dr. Dandona, adding: "One of the major problems is that we simply do not have enough information: we need more qualitative studies to pinpoint how our children are drowning."

This, she said, would also throw light on other, related issues that play a role in drownings: people forced to go to the toilet near a waterbody for instance, could fall in accidentally and drown, which would not take place if there was a toilet in the home.

Awareness

While accidental falls into waterbodies account for about 70% of all drowning deaths as per the NCRB, there have also been multiple cases of young people and families going for a pleasure dip or to bathe, with these outings ending in tragedy, as also attempts to cross rivers, and boat capsizes. Such an incident occurred this April, when five young men, all aged between 18 and 24, drowned in a temple tank in Chennai, some reportedly, while trying to rescue others.

"We see cases where young people venture into waters that are not familiar to them - this could be the sea, quarries, ponds or rivers, and this is where awareness is crucial: to not venture in if you cannot swim, to look out for notices put up by the government about safe swimming spots and to not get carried away by peer pressure," says a senior officer of the T.N. Fire & Rescue Services, adding that many who go into the water are unaware of factors such as depth and tides.

Selfies, she says, are another hazard: in an effort to get the best photograph of a scenic dam or a brimming river, many young persons have tragically lost their lives. "Avoid selfies at all costs in risky areas," the officer says.

"The highest number of 'selfie-deaths', from a global search has been reported in India and drowning was amongst the topmost reasons for deaths caused while taking selfies," states the World Health Organisation (WHO)'s 'Status of drowning in South-East Asia: Country reports', 2022.

Flood casualties

Another major cause of concern, is drowning due to floods. A total of 656 people in India lost their lives due to flooding in 2021 states the NCRB.

This, says Dr Dandona, points to the urgent need for better civic infrastructure and measures to tackle climate change.

Post-event recovery and rehabilitative measures are also important, adds Dr. Jagnoor, as drowning deaths may even occur due to waterlogging.

Learning how to swim is often talked about as prevention of deaths, but while in an ideal scenario, all children would learn how to swim, in practical terms, this may not be possible.

> Key aspects in the drowning deaths of children are the lack of supervision and physical barriers on waterbodies

What is needed, says Dr. Jagnoor, are State-specific policies that can be targeted to regions where interventions are needed: coastal villages, low-lying areas and wetland regions for instance.

The government is taking cognisance of drowning deaths: last year, the Centre established an expert committee to draft the Drowning Prevention Framework of India. Dr. Dandona, who was a member, explains: "The strategy was aimed towards an inter-sectoral approach to drowning prevention."

In February 2022, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare also released a 'National Emergency Life Support' provider course manual for paramedics that covered drowning, among other emergencies.

It may not always be accessible as a drinking source, but there's water everywhere in the country: along our long coastline, in our meandering rivers and lakes and pooling in our wetlands, all crucial for survival.

While we rightly work hard to safeguard these natural resources, we must also, simultaneously, safeguard people around them.

Mental health has become a critical issue and companies want to keep psychologists and doctors handy. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Post Covid, corporates begin offering OPD benefits to employees

Maitri Porecha
porechamaitri.m@thehindu.co.in

Workplaces have become increasingly employee-friendly of late extending health benefits to staff which go beyond usual hospitalisation coverage. According to the latest report released by risk and human capital consulting firm AON India, based on a survey of 251 big, small and medium-sized companies, more firms are now offering primary care benefits such as consultations, medicines, lab tests and mental health counselling, compared with pre-pandemic days.

Of the 251 IT, manufacturing, pharma, engineering, financial and other companies studied, only 40 were providing out-patient department (OPD) benefits in 2019. "However, in 2023, this number has grown to 85 companies. There has been a 51% increase in the number of companies offering these services," said Shantanoo Saxena, Vice President, Health Solutions, AON India.

While companies ususally onboard an insurance company for health cove, Saxena says increasingly companies are keen on a digital approach including tele consultation, access to lab tests, physiotherapy, dental and vision related issues, vaccination and so on.

Mr. Saxena points out that the mental health component has now become critical and companies want to keep psychologists and doctors handy. "If somebody is not keeping well mentally it impacts performance. There is increased absenteeism and quality of work reduces. As a result, the business suffers," he adds.

> **Companies are willing to spend anywhere between ₹ 1000 to ₹ 1,00,000 for outpatient plans, with 43% of employers opting for ₹ 10,000 annual OPD cover**

He explains that companies start with providing access to psychologist, but they also offer employee assistance programmes and depending on severity of the problem, interventions are designed. Mental health consultations are covered in insurance on the OPD side.

Companies are willing to spend anywhere between ₹ 1000 to ₹ 1,00,000 for outpatient plans, with 43% of employers opting for ₹ 10,000 annual OPD cover. "This includes two to three General Physician visits in a year, and balance is utilised on dental and vision sub-limits," the AON report says.

The definition of 'health' is transitioning from illness to wellness, however, that shift is slow with the majority of companies, participating in the survey, not opting for OPD benefits.

"However we are seeing big tech companies adopting the wellness model where they deploy wellness solutions like access to mental health services, telemedicine, gyms, access to Chartered Accountants for tax, wealth managers for financial planning, lawyers to deal with legal stress and so on as wellness depends on overall well-being," Mr. Saxena explains. Not all companies roll out OPD benefits, but they want to get there.

While utilisation of hospitalisation insurance is hardly 11%, over 50% of employees utilise OPD. "OPD services are a high touch point product, and most companies are looking to build a digital platform which will help employees access hospitalisation and OPD as well as wellness. When employees come on the platform they can submit a claim, do an engagement challenge like a Stepathon, get access to a network of gyms, swimming pools, sports activities and so on," Mr. Saxena adds.

Centre-mandated health spending has positive impact: study

R. Sujatha
sujatha.r@thehindu.co.in

Measures taken by the National Health Mission (NHM) have given a positive fillip to the health sector across the country over the past 15 years, a study published in the *Public Health For All journal* has concluded.The States received Cenfunding only if they complied with the Central government's schemes, and States were nudged to enhance investment in primary health care.

This had a positive impact, write researchers Shankar Prinja, V.R. Muraleedharan and Girija Vaidhyanathan in *Financing Primary Healthcare Fiscal Federal Relations in India* in the journal published by the India International Centre.

The researchers studied the impact of public health policies and the Centre's contribution in four States - Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Haryana and Bihar. They found that States had slowly increased allocation to their health budgets.

The target of 8% of total State budget has yet to be achieved. The target was envisaged in the National Health Policy of 2017.

In 2018-2019 states spent an estimated 5.2% of the total budget on health.

That NHM's conditional allocation has helped is seen from the steady fall in the country's infant mortality rate.

Also, the disparity in per capita public spending across States has reduced.

That conditional allocation has helped is seen from the steady fall in the country's infant mortality rate as states responded to policy directions on increasing investment. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

But the health departments continue to struggle with the issue of underspending of allocated funds.

The NHM is not likely to withdraw conditions to contributions it makes to the States in "the near future" given that the mission is invested with implementing Centrally-sponsored schemes with a sizable allocation, the researchers conclude. States must develop concrete plans to build their primary health care delivery system to achieve one of the key objectives of the NHM - universal health coverage.

For States to develop a clear road map, the Centre must develop a National Database of Health System Cost, which should be updated with the estimated cost of comprehensive primary health care, researchers recommend.

They posit that the way forward is to make realistic estimates of the cost of delivering (primary, secondary and tertiary) healthcare; to arrive at a threshold level of cost-per year of quality adjusted life year (QALY) gained through primary healthcare interventions.

For feedback and suggestions
for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

Police: Got four live grenades from terror suspect's house

Grenades claimed to have been seized from the house planted by police, family members allege

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bengaluru Police, who claimed to have cracked a terror module that had procured arms and ammunition to carry out subversive activities in the city, recovered four live grenades from the Kodigehalli residence of one of the arrested persons, Jahid Tabrez. The police had recovered seven country-made pistols and 45 live bullets during the arrest of the five suspects.

Jahid Tabrez

Alleged framing

Even as the city police claimed that the recovery of live grenades from the house of one of the accused was an indication of the module's capability to carry out blasts and were waiting for a "green signal" from their handlers, family members of Tabrez alleged the grenades were "planted" by the police.

"The grenades the police have claimed to have seized from our house were not from here. The police brought them, placed them here in our house, and claimed to have found them," said Avez Tabarez, elder brother of the accused. He claimed his brother was framed in a murder case in 2017 because of his friendship with Junaid and since then the police had been harassing the family.

"My brother had cut off all contact with Junaid. I was taking him to work with me at an aluminium factory. Despite this, the police have again arrested him for his past association with Junaid," he told media persons on Tuesday.

Allegations denied

Denying these allegations, a senior police official, who is part of the probe, said that the custodial interrogation of the accused led them to the cache of live grenades. The grenades had now been handed over to Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL), Madivala, for examination.

The official said that these grenades were part of the arms consignment arranged by the prime accused in the case, Junaid, to be delivered to the group of five of his associates, arrested now.

The recovery of walkie-talkie sets also indicated that the accused may have been planning an on-ground operation. These sets were probably meant to be used to communicate among themselves during the operation to go off the agencies' radar. These sets have also been sent for examination to FSL, Madivala. S.D. Sharanappa, Joint Commissioner of Police (Crime), who is leading the probe into the case, said that more people were likely to be involved with the module and that investigation was on to identify them. "We are presently on the lookout for the individual who supplied arms and ammunition for the module," he said.

Traffic police trained 24,502 people on road safety in 2022

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

The city traffic police trained 24,502 people, including KSRTC and BMTC drivers, traffic wardens, and school and college students, at the Traffic Training Road Safety Institute at Thanisandra in 2022, which is the highest when compared with the figures in the last two years.

Meanwhile, 11,711 people have been trained by the traffic police so far this year, Home Minister G. Parameshwara informed the Legislative Council recently in response to a question on road safety awareness created by the traffic police.

"The traffic police have taken up various initiatives to create awareness about road safety among the general public. The awareness has been created through various social media platforms, and we have also created separate social media IDs for all 48 traffic police stations," Mr. Parameshwara said.

In numbers
Training provided by Traffic Training Road Safety Institute

Year	No. of people trained
2020	6,322
2021	5,297
2022	24,502
2023 (till July)	11,711

Source: Home Department

At the Traffic Training Road Safety Institute, they have been training the traffic police apart from the general public since 1975. "There are a number of long-term and short-term courses designed specifically for police officers and the public. They are given intensive training about investigation of accidents and laws pertaining to enforcement through audio visual mode," a senior traffic official said. "Institute also provides its expertise in sensitising KSRTC, BMTC drivers, Fire Services personnel, drivers of public and private sectors, Home Guards, traffic wardens as well as school and college students," official added.

In his response to the question in the Council, Mr. Parameshwara said that the Students Association for Road Safety (SARS) had been training school students on road safety with police personnel visiting schools.

A traffic police official, said, "The object of SARS is involving the students in regulation of traffic by giving them traffic training. Under this scheme, traffic officers visit all the schools in their jurisdiction and meet the headmaster or principal and enroll eligible students preferably the high school students."

"They will be given training in drill, marching, traffic signals, etc., and will be taken to important junctions in the area to regulate the traffic. The students who are trained under this scheme will also regulate traffic in front of their own schools," he explained.

BBMP to commence voter list revision

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The BBMP will be carrying out a special voter list revision from Friday which will go on for about a month. BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath directed block-level officers (BLO) to ensure zero errors during the process.

The BLOs will visit houses to include, delete and correct names in the voter list using the software. The BLOs were given training to carry out this exercise. While this is an annual process, the exercise also assumes significance in view of upcoming elections.

The BLOs will also have to check for changes of the addresses of voters in 28 assembly constituencies and make necessary changes in the list. After this process ends on August 20, the BBMP will commence revision of booths in the assembly segments on August 28.

Hotel cashier murdered

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 26-year-old cashier of a hotel was stabbed to death allegedly by a staff member of the hotel at Jeevan Bima Nagar on Thursday.

The deceased has been identified as Subhash, a native of West Bengal, who worked as a cashier at Citadel Hotel. The police suspect the accused brutally attacked and stabbed Subhash repeatedly to rob him of valuables. On Thursday around 6 a.m., the hotel owner, Naveen, found Subhash lying in a pool of blood. The accused is on the run and efforts are on to secure him, Bhimashankar Guled, DCP, East division, said.

E-paper edition

The Hindu offers more coverage of Bengaluru in the e-paper edition (epaper.thehindu.com).

In the issue dated July 21, we have a story on immunitoAI, a start-up that is building an AI platform which makes designing and developing antibody drugs faster and cheaper.

Timings
BENGALURU

FRIDAY, JUL. 21
RISE 06:03 SET 18:49
RISE 08:46 SET 21:29

SATURDAY, JUL. 22
RISE 06:03 SET 18:49
RISE 09:32 SET 22:04

SUNDAY, JUL. 23
RISE 06:03 SET 18:49
RISE 10:17 SET 22:38

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	32	25
Mysuru	32	22
Bengaluru	29	21

Bengaluru Today
29°C The weather will be mostly dry. Day will be slight warm and humid. Night will be pleasant.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
30°C A dry weather to prevail. Day will be slight warm but humid. Night will be pleasant.

© Copyright Skymet Weather 2023
All rights reserved.

THE HINDU
DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of an advertisement before responding to any published in this newspaper. THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., the Publisher & Owner of this newspaper, does not vouch for the authenticity of any advertisement or advertiser or for any of the advertiser's products and/or services. In no event can the Owner, Publisher, Printer, Editor, Director/s, Employees of this newspaper/company be held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

Pvt. buses, autos, taxis to remain off the road on July 27

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Opposing the Shakti scheme, which offers free rides for women in non-premium bus services of the road transport corporations (RTCs), 23 private transport unions and federations have decided to call for a Bengaluru bandh, where no autorickshaws, taxis, and private buses will ply for 24 hours, on July 27.

Autorickshaw drivers have claimed that the Shakti scheme has hit their business.

Arguing that the scheme has hit them hard, they have put forth a series of demands. While autorickshaw and taxi drivers have demanded compensation, private bus owners have demanded that the government implement the Shakti scheme even in private buses too and reimburse them for tickets issued to women.

Auto drivers and owners' unions are demanding a ban on illegal bike taxis across the city. They also want to ban aggregators who charge more than 5% commission of the total fare.

The unions plan to take out a rally from Sangolli Rayanna Circle to Freedom Park at 10.30 a.m. and stage a protest there till 7 p.m. "Private buses plying to and from other States and parts of Karnataka will not reach or leave Bengaluru on July 27," said S. Natraj Sharma, president, Karnataka State Private Transport Associations.

The union claims that the government has neglected the private transport sector for a long time and the implementation of the Shakti scheme is another step in the same direction. Radhakrishna Holla, president of the Karnataka State Travel Operators' Association, said, "The private sector provides employment to around 20 lakh people. A total of ₹2,000 crore is paid in taxes every year. But with the implementation of the Shakti scheme, the government has abandoned the self-employed lower middle-class people like auto and taxi drivers."

We are teaching Kannada as second language, Sophia school tells KDA

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The management of Sophia High School in the city has denied the allegation that it has dropped teaching Kannada as a second language from class VIII onwards.

School principal Sister Alpana, in her reply to the Kannada Development Authority (KDA) notice, on Thursday, said: "According to the Kannada Language Learning Act, 2015, we are teaching Kannada as the second language to all students. The allegations published in the newspapers about dropping teaching Kannada as the second language from eighth grade are false". However, the school's response is silent on the contents of a WhatsApp chat, screenshots which were shared widely on social media, where the school claimed that a group of parents had approached it to drop teaching Kannada. "We are not satisfied with the Sophia High School management's reply to our notice. We will visit the school with experts and Kannada activists and conduct an inquiry soon," said Santosh Hanagalla, KDA secretary.

Student loses ₹2 lakh to fraudsters in his hunt for rental apartment

Shreyas H.S.
BENGALURU

A 23-year-old student from the city ended up losing ₹2 lakh to conmen who were misusing a property searching app after he zeroed in on a flat for rent and came into contact with a fake owner. The victim currently resides at a paying guest accommodation at Kasavanahalli in Sarjapur.

On July 4, the student, after downloading the app of one of the popular property search websites, started finding a flat for rent. After a while, he narrowed down on a flat and dialled the number provided on the app. The man on the other side, who claimed to be the owner of the flat, said the space was up for rent but one had to pay ₹2,000 in advance for visiting and registration before seeing the property. The student, believing it to be true, transacted money on a payment application. The owner identified himself as Manish Jain.

'The man who claimed to be the flat owner said one had to pay ₹2,000 in advance for visiting and registration'

The student, who did not wish to be identified, told *The Hindu*: "The next day, I received a call from a person who identified himself as Anupam. He said he was the manager of the property owned by Mr. Jain and I had to pay ₹8,055 immediately to activate a card for me to see the property. Although I was perplexed, I believed that this could be the procedure for those looking for rental homes through the app. I paid him the amount online." On the same day, Anupam called him repeatedly and demanded ₹8,000, ₹11,008, ₹16,000, ₹8,000, ₹27,000, and ₹15,000.

Anupam claimed that these are the charges he had to pay before they allowed him to see the house and the same would be returned if he did not like the flat. "Anumapm said he will schedule the date and time for me to visit the flat located at Marathahalli," the victim said.

On July 6, the victim received a call from a man identifying himself as Dharam Singh. "I became suspicious and demanded him to return the money I had paid the previous day and he said he would do so if I made a payment of ₹95,000. He said the fresh payment was to process repayment and once the process was completed I would be receiving the total amount. Trusting the man, I sent the money," the student said. As there were no calls from their end, he tried to reach them on the three numbers but they were not responding. A few days later, all three mobiles were switched off. He then approached the police. The Bellandur police have booked a case against three persons and have begun the investigation.

HAL, Argentine Defence Ministry sign LoI for light and medium utility copters

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. (HAL) and the Ministry of Defence of Argentina on Thursday signed a letter of intent (LoI) on productive cooperation and acquisition of light and medium utility helicopters for the armed forces of the Argentine Republic.

Jorge Taiana, Argentinian Defence Minister, in the cockpit of LCA Tejas during his visit to HAL in Bengaluru on Thursday.

The LoI was signed by Argentinian Defence Minister Jorge Taiana and C.B. Ananthakrishnan, CMD, HAL, in the presence of Francisco Cafiero, secretary of International Affairs, ambassador Hugo Javier Gobbi, and ambassador Dinesh Bhatia.

Mr. Taiana said the day was interesting and a step on the road to an ever-growing and strong collaboration with HAL.

This is the second time a South American country has expressed interest in HAL-manufactured helicopters.

During the daylong programme, Mr. Taiana and his team viewed the flying display of various HAL products at HAL Airport. The defence PSU said that the Argentine team also paid a visit to Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas, Helicopter Division, and evinced keen interest in HAL products.

Argentina is said to have evinced interest in LCA Tejas.

INBRIEF

SWR starts economy meals counter at Bengaluru station

South Western Railway (SWR) on Thursday started economy meals and drinking water service counters at platforms near the general seating (GS) coaches at Shree Siddharoodha Swamiji Hubballi Junction station and Krantiveera Sangolli Rayanna Railway Station in Bengaluru.

"The Railway Board has issued instructions for the provision of economy meals, snacks, combo meals, and packaged drinking water to be served through extended service counters to be placed at the platform near GS coaches," SWR said in a release. "The location of these counters has been decided by the zonal Railways so as to align these counters with the location of GS coaches on platforms. The provision of the extended service counters at the platforms has been done on an experimental basis for a period of six months," the release stated.

'80 structures being built violating plan identified'

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has identified 80 structures being built by deviating from the approved building plan in the South Zone. The civic body has issued orders to demolish these buildings.

Special Commissioner (South Zone) Jayaram Raipura on Thursday said the BBMP had demolished two buildings in Basavanagudi and Chikpet Assembly constituencies and soon all 80 buildings would be removed. The action comes after the BBMP mandated builders to display approved building plans at construction sites.

While in Chickpet constituency, 31 buildings have violated the plans, 18 buildings deviated from the plan in Jayanagar constituency, 16 in Basavanagudi, nine in Padmanabhanagar, five in BTM Layout, and one in Vijayanagar.

Govt. inducts Rajeev Gowda into experts' committee

The State government has inducted the former Rajya Sabha member M.V. Rajeev Gowda into the experts' committee, a group that was set up to look into new policies for the overall development of the city and restructuring of the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP).

The committee, headed by the former Chief Secretary B.S. Patil, had the former Principal Secretary Siddaiah, and director of Bangalore International Centre V. Ravichandar, as its members. The committee was called the BBMP Restructuring Committee which submitted its report in 2015 and was reconstituted recently after the Congress returned to power.
The committee will study, among other things, how the city's development can be reimagined and implementation of the metropolitan planning committee.

Published by Nirmala Lakshman at No 19&21, Bhagwan Mahaveer Road, Bengaluru-560001 and Printed by C. Sridhar at Plot No. 13-D, Bommasandra-Jigani Link Road, KIADB Industrial Area, Bommasandra, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru-560099 on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., Chennai-600002. Editor: Suresh Nambath (Responsible for selection of news under the PRB Act).
RNI No. KARENG/1970/49945 • ISSN 0971 - 751X

Bengaluru start-up explores a sustainable drug discovery model for cancer treatment

immunitoAI is building an AI platform for antibody-based drug discovery which makes designing and developing antibody drugs faster and more efficient

Shilpa Elizabeth
BENGALURU

Antibody therapy for cancer treatment, a more precise and lesser harmful alternative to chemotherapy, has been around for many years now. However, for the common person, it has remained prohibitively expensive costing around ₹4 to 5 Crore. Bengaluru-based startup immunitoAI may have a solution for this.

Founded by Dr. Aridni Shah and Trisha Chatterjee, immunitoAI is building an AI platform for antibody-based drug discovery which makes designing and developing antibody drugs faster and more efficient.

Chemotherapy vs antibody therapy

As per reports the market size of antibody therapy is as huge as $186 billion (as of 2021) and is expected to witness a CAGR of 13.2 percent from 2022 to 2028.

A relatively new market, Dr. Shah points out that today of the top 10 best sellers in medication, five are antibodies.

Chemotherapy drugs which are small molecule drugs, kill any fast-growing cell, and cannot differentiate between a healthy cell and a cancerous cell. As a result, they harm every fast-growing cell in the body including the hair and the red blood cells.

On the other hand, antibodies bind to a specific target. Making use of this property, pharma companies have been designing antibody-based drugs that can bind to cancer cells. These antibodies would activate the immune system which would attack only the cancer cell.

"Since it is a biological molecule, so far companies have relied on biological sources like animals to get these antibodies," Dr. Shah explains.

"For example, there are certain proteins specifically present only on cancer surfaces. You can take just that protein and inject it into an animal. For the animal, it's a foreign body. So, its immune system starts producing antibodies over a course of three months to a year."

The antibody-making cells are then extracted. Millions of antibodies are screened to identify those that bind to the target. Called lead molecules, drugs are derived from these antibodies.

However, there's a catch.

Trial-and-error method

"Pharma companies put enormous effort into characterising this molecule. Characterising is about finding out what its properties are, what protein sequence is if it can be stable at different temperatures, and is it possible to store it for a very long time...," Dr. Shah says. This takes about three to six months.

Next is a trial-and-error stage where mutations are made to the molecule to see if it can attain the required drug properties.

The cycle of characterising, mutating and testing continues until a satisfactory molecule is obtained.

But another challenge here is that there is a limit to mutating the molecule as its source is an animal system. After a point, there are chances that it loses either its function or its structure.

At this juncture, the pharma company has only two options - let go of the project which cost them several years and millions of dollars, or compromise and go ahead.

"If you compromise, there is a higher chance that either in animal studies or human studies the drug would fail," says Dr. Aridni Shah.

The start-up is currently training its models and has got 80 per cent accuracy in terms of getting biologically viable sequences.

Trisha Chatterjee (left) and Dr. Aridni Shah, co-founders of immunitoAI

AI-designed antibodies

The cause of such limitations is primarily the reliance on a biological source to obtain the molecule, which in the first place was created to be inside an animal body and not to be a drug.

But what if antibodies with the required drug properties could be designed with the help of AI and then developed in a lab?

With this thought process, immunitoAI started building an AI platform with two parts.

The first part called imDESIGN designs a new antibody from scratch with all the required properties. The several thousand trial-and-error procedures over the years and advancements in the field have already generated a huge trove of sequencing data with which the startup has been training its deep learning model.

"We have a generative model which generates a lot of antibodies for a given antigen. Then we take it through a second pipeline called imRANK," Dr. Shah says.

"We generate a bunch of antibody sequences, fold it and then dock it to the exact area where we want it to bind. Then we study all the interactions over there based on which they will be ranked as good binders or weak binders."

Till here the entire process is done computationally. Now it moves to the lab. DNAs corresponding to selected antibody designs are synthesized and put in either bacteria or mammalian cells. The cells now start producing actual antibodies and characterisation of those antibodies is done.

"Since we have already predicted the drug properties upfront, now characterisation is not an exploratory path or trial and error. At this stage, we simply validate whether the predicted parameters are true or not," says Dr. Shah. The startup is currently training its models and has got 80 percent accuracy in terms of getting biologically viable sequences. The next step would be to improve on the binding and specificity.

A sustainable model

According to Dr. Shah once the AI model is trained it would take only minutes to generate antibody designs with the required drug properties.

About six to eight months would be required to experimentally validate the molecules in the lab.

She notes that it would take a year or even less to get the final molecule in place. Currently, the industry takes anywhere between four to 10 years to achieve the same results.

While speed is one aspect of it, what is more important is the efficiency.

She says, "Imagine a pharma company that has ten molecules in the pipeline. Each clinical trial causes around $ 500 million. Out of these probably one molecule will finally reach the market. The company would want to make up for all the losses it incurred with the other nine. Then the cost of the drug becomes very high."

This makes antibody therapy beyond the reach of the common man.

Dr. Shah acknowledges that immunitoAI's intervention alone may not bring the down prices drastically, but it would certainly increase the success rates significantly, atleast by 2x.

The goal is to ultimately make a more sustainable model of developing the molecules which she hopes would eventually pave the way for making antibody drugs more available and accessible similar to small molecule drugs like crocin.

Challenges

In 2021 the company raised a sum of ₹ 1 million in a seed round led by pi Ventures. Existing investors Entrepreneur First was also part of the round.

Roopan Aulakh, managing director at pi Ventures noted that advancement in technologies like AI is transforming drug discovery and by using AI to accelerate the pace of antibody discovery, immunitoAI has been one of the pioneers in this approach .

"This can translate into a huge impact since antibodies, although very promising candidates for various treatments are constrained by the expensive, long, and inefficient discovery process today. The opportunity that immunitoAI offers is the effective and safe treatment of diseases like cancer and autoimmune diseases through novel antibodies," Ms. Aulakh said.

"At pi Ventures, we back deep-tech startups leveraging disruptive technologies to change the status quo or create new markets. immunitoAI is well aligned with this vision. They are solving a tough problem and building significant IP in the process," she added.

The immunitoAI team hopes that the final model would be ready in two to three months and it would then start generating sequences. However, the way forward is not without challenges. Dr. Shah notes, "In biology, AI has unfortunately been misused. Many have made humongous claims and have not delivered. Hence people are sceptical to accept AI-based solutions in biology."

She adds that they also often face the question of FDA approvals.

"Eventually a biological molecule will be made and that will go through all the testing FDA requires. But we are coming in the stage prior to that which is about identifying a good antibody. No regulations come there. Everything will come after actual animal testing," she clarifies.

Road ahead

The team has completed one set of validation and the next target is to prove that the platform can generate antibody designs that bind specifically to the target.

Dr. Shah says, "We want to benchmark our antibody designs against existing antibodies. We'll take an existing target that has an existing antibody in the market."

"And then we will generate ours. This would help to compare how many years it took for the development of the existing drug and how much time it takes for ours."

She adds, "We are going to look at four to five cancer targets first purely for benchmarking. The pharma companies we partner with would define the disease and the target, and then the drugs would be developed."

At BIC, Amitav Ghosh to talk on his book and the hidden history of opium

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Author Amitav Ghosh. PTI

On Sunday, the Bangalore International Centre (BIC), in Domlur in collaboration with the Bangalore Literature Festival (BLF) and Harper Collins, will host author Amitav Ghosh and historian Ramchandra Guha for a discussion on Ghosh's book, *Smoke and Ashes: A Writer's Journey Through Opium's Hidden Histories*. During the talk, Mr. Ghosh will delve into the creation and execution of his book and engage in a conversation with the audience, alongside Mr. Guha.

Smoke and Ashes uncovers the untold story of how India, under the British Empire, became the world's largest producer of opium during the 18th and 19th centuries. The book also explores the diverse conditions under which opium was cultivated in different regions, leaving lasting impacts on these areas. It also traces the transformative influence of the opium trade on India, China, Britain, and the United States, with profound long-term consequences for the birth of the modern world and contemporary globalism.

The book weaves together a compelling narrative about how this seemingly unremarkable plant, opium, has shaped the modern world and its current role in the world's transformation.

It encompasses elements of travelogue, memoir, and historical exploration, touching on both economic and cultural aspects.

Speaking about the event, Shinie Anthony, Co-founder, of BLF says "BLF and BIC often come together for special books. Since this is the first time Amitav Ghosh is coming to BIC or BLF."

Senior citizen undergoes valve implantation

Apart from cardiac issues, the patient is also suffering renal failure

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

This is the fourth valve implantation done through this artery in India. GETTY IMAGES

A senior citizen, who developed severe aortic stenosis (narrowing of the heart valves) has undergone an artificial valve implantation through the carotid artery at a private hospital in the city. The carotid artery is in the neck region which supplies blood to the brain, face and neck.

The patient had undergone a bypass surgery in the past and his heart pumping capacity had reduced. Doctors at Aster R V Hospital, where this procedure was done, claimed this is the fourth valve implantation done through this artery in India and the first in Bengaluru.

Other issues

Apart from cardiac issues, the 73-year-old patient has also suffered renal failure and is undergoing regular dialysis. He was admitted with severe breathlessness and was diagnosed with severe aortic stenosis. Upon discussion with the cardiac surgeon and cardiac anesthetist, the surgical risk of complications for a Surgical Aortic Valve Replacement (SAVR) was determined to be very high. He was hence advised to undergo the Transcatheter valve replacement (TAVR) procedure, said his treating doctors - S. Venkatesh and Divakar Bhat.

"During evaluation for the same, both leg arteries were found to be heavily calcified. Hence, we decided to probe the novel option of using the arteries in the neck. Using state-of-the-art monitoring of brain oxygenation using the Near Infra-Red Spectroscopy system, throughout the procedure, we were successfully able to implant a new valve," Dr. Bhat said.

Why this procedure

Dr. Venkatesh said typically, the treatment of severe aortic stenosis is by replacement of the patient's valve with an artificial or prosthetic valve, performed often by open heart surgery - SAVR. "The patient had hardened and blocked leg arteries, which made the surgeons opt for another route for implantation by uniquely undertaking the same through his neck vessels," the doctor added.

'India to become sustainable fashion hub'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

India will soon become a global hub for sustainable fashion apparel and garments, said industry experts who spoke at the opening session of an apparel sourcing meet held in Bengaluru.

David Hillen, GM and Direction, Gildan, a Canadian apparel manufacturer with a turnover of $2.9 billion and employs 50,000 people said, "India's strong economy is a golden opportunity for companies like us, we are also planning to expand our manufacturing base in Asia.'

Shreyaskar Chaudhary, MD, Pratibha Syntex, a vertically integrated, sustainability-oriented supplier of knitted textile products said, "We are optimistic about long-term growth in the Indian apparel retail market."

"We are also expanding and coming up with a new massive unit in Madhya Pradesh."

Global experts from textile, apparel, and fashion industries representing over 15 countries gathered at the two-day premier sourcing show for the global fashion and retail industry.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JULY 21, 1973

Trust to Take over Mysore Palace

Bangalore, July 20: The former Maharaja of Mysore, Mr. Jayachamaraja Wadiyar, has given his consent to the Government proposal to convert the vast and historic Mysore Palace into a trust property.

This was disclosed here to-day by the Mysore Labour Minister, Mr. Aziz Sait, while talking to the pressmen. The State Government wants to preserve the Palace, a landmark, in the national show-piece in view of its architectural beauty.

The famous Art Gallery, now housed in the nearby Jagahmohan Palace, will also be shifted to the main Palace. A broad based trust will be formed to administer the Palace.

The proposal to permit the former Maharaja to alienate his Bangalore Palace had been strongly opposed by an influential section of the Congress Legislature Party.

Film Awards Presented

Bangalore, July 20: Mr. G. V. Iyer, producer of "Vamshavruksha," which has been adjudged the best Kannada film by the Mysore Government during 1971-72, was presented with a cash award of Rs. 25,000 by the Chief Minister, Mr. Devaraj Urs at a function held at Ravindra Kalakshetra here to-day.

Mr. Venkatarao Talagere and L.V. Sharada, who were chosen the best actor and best actress respectively for their roles in 'Vamshavruksha,' were awarded Rs. 4,000 each. Messrs. Girish Karnad and B. V. Karanth, who were adjudged best Directors of 'Vamshavruksha,' were given Rs.2,500 each and a gold medal.

CM: Universal Basic Income concept being implemented through guarantees is Karnataka model of development

Unlike BJP that is robbing from pockets of poor, we are putting money into their pockets, says Siddaramaiah; he describes five guarantees as the 'biggest ever welfare measure implemented by a State'

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah speaking in the Legislative Assembly on Thursday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Training his guns on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Thursday sought to project his experiment of implementing Universal Basic Income concept through five guarantees as "Karnataka model of development" as against the much-talked about "Gujarat model" of the BJP.

"The BJP has robbed from the pockets of poor people. But our government has tried to put money into the pockets of poor people through Universal Basic Income concept being implemented through five poll guarantees," the Chief Minister said while replying to the debate on the State Budget in Karnataka Assembly.

Describing the five guarantee schemes as the "biggest ever welfare measure implemented by any State in India", he said the Congress had decided to implement them after realising that people of the State were in dire need of a support system as they were badly hit by the BJP rule

IN THE LEGISLATURE

and its policies. Several developed countries had adopted such a system to support their people, he pointed out. "Our model of development is inclusive and based on the principles of Buddha, Basaveshwara, Ambedkar, Gandhi and Kuvempu," he said.

Poor pay more tax

"The corporates used to pay more tax in the country before the Narendra Modi regime. But now, the middle class and poor people pay more tax while the tax burden of corporates has reduced. In fact, the BJP has waived loans of corporates to the tune of ₹12 lakh crore. How can they be called pro-poor?" Mr. Siddaramaiah wondered during his reply that was made amidst boycott of the Opposition BJP and JD(S). Such schemes would boost the economy too, he maintained.

Taking exception to Mr. Modi's comments that Karnataka will become bankrupt if all the five guarantees were implemented, Mr. Siddaramaiah accused the BJP dispensation at the Centre of "ruining the State's finances." "Karnataka pays highest central tax of ₹4 lakh crore a year next to Maharashtra. But in return, we get a paltry Central share of ₹37,000 crore. The Central share in several projects that used to be around 80% earlier has now dwindled to the range of 75-80%," he alleged.

He said while Karnataka's share in the 15th Finance Commission had reduced from the earlier 4.71% to 3.65%, the recommendation for allocating a special grant of ₹ 5,495 crore to the State too had been rejected by the Centre.

"Our BJP State leaders including B.S. Yediyurappa who threatened to stage a struggle if there is a shortfall of single grain in implementing our Amma Bhagya scheme, did not even ask Mr. Modi why allocation of special grants for the State have been rejected," Mr. Siddaramaiah said.

Meanwhile, the Budget got the approval of the Assembly with the adoption of Karnataka Appropriation Bill.

BJP, JD(S) complain to Governor against 'misuse of IAS officers'; Speaker meets him on expulsion

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bharatiya Janata Party Legislature Party (BJPLP) approached Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot and lodged a complaint against the alleged misuse of around 25 IAS officers as protocol officers for political leaders for the Opposition meet held in the city on July 17 and 18.

Curiously, Janata Dal (Secular) leader and former Chief Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy not only met the Governor with the BJP delegation, but was also a signatory to the petition by BJPLP. This comes amidst reports of an alliance between the two parties, and speculations of even a merger.

Prior to the BJP-JD(S) delegation meeting the Governor, JDSLP meet condemned Congress for the fracas in the Assembly on Wednesday and claimed that Mr. Kumaraswamy had not misused the bureaucracy during his swearing-in ceremony, as alleged by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah.

The BJP complaint alleges that the deployment of IAS officers as protocol officers for a political event, in no way connected with the affairs of Karnataka amounted to misuse of Constitutional norms. BJP demanded that the Governor seek an explanation on the matter from Mr. Siddaramaiah.

On Wednesday, the Assembly passed a resolution suspending 10 MLAs, including former Ministers R. Ashok, C.N. Ashwathnarayan, V. Sunil Kumar and Araga Jnanendra. They were suspended for their "indecent and disrespectful conduct" after they tore copies of bills and agenda documents and threw them towards the Chair while protesting against deployment of IAS officers.

Meanwhile, Thursday also saw Assembly Speaker U.T. Khader, along with Deputy Speaker Rudrappa Lamani and Assembly secretary M.K. Vishalakshi, calling on the Governor. They apprised him of the circumstances that led to the suspension of BJP lawmakers.

Proceedings boycotted

The BJP and the JD(S) boycotted the proceedings on Thursday in protest against the suspension. Only G. Janardhana Reddy, member of the Kalyana Rajya Pragathi Paksha, and an Independent member Latha Mallikarjun were present in the Opposition benches.

The BJP legislators staged a protest at the Mahatma Gandhi statue in the Vidhana Soudha and shouted slogans condemning the Speaker's action.

(Clockwise from top left) BJP members, who boycotted the House proceedings protesting against the suspension of 10 party MLAs from the Legislative Assembly, in front of the Gandhi statue at the Vidhana Soudha; BJP and JD(S) leaders meeting Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot at the Raj Bhavan; the empty Opposition benches in the Assembly; and Speaker U.T. Khader and Deputy Speaker Rudrappa Lamani meeting the Governor at the Raj Bhavan in Bengaluru on Thursday. SUDHAKARA JAIN AND SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Cong. is sure to win minimum of 20 seats in LS polls: CM

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Remarking that the State BJP, which is heavily dependent on Prime Minister Narendra Modi, will know its real strength in the Lok Sabha polls, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Thursday maintained that the Congress was bound to win a minimum of 20 of the total 28 Lok Sabha seats in Karnataka.

Dependent on Modi

"The BJP is heavily dependent on Mr. Modi. But Mr. Modi's popularity too has started declining after the Karnataka Assembly elections. In fact, people have rejected the BJP and elected the Congress candidates with huge margins in all the places visited by Mr. Modi for the Assembly poll campaign," Mr. Siddaramaiah said while replying to the debate on State Budget in the Assembly.

Ridiculing the BJP for the inordinate delay in appointment of Leader of the Opposition, the Chief Minister said this is the first time in his political career of over 40 years that the Budget had been presented and the Governor's address delivered without a Leader of the Opposition.

Terming this as an indication of political bankruptcy of the BJP, he said it was also an insult to the democracy and Constitution. "Narendra Modi is being described as Vishwa Guru by the BJP. But is it befitting on the part of the Vishwa Guru to inordinately delay the appointment of Leader of the Opposition?" he wondered.

Shying away

Accusing the BJP of showing scant respect for legislature practices, he took exception to the BJP members' "unruly" behaviour in the Assembly on Wednesday and their decision to boycott the session on Thursday. "I have presented the State budget 14 times. But this is the first time that I am replying to the Budget without the Opposition members. They are shying away from their responsibility towards people," he alleged.

₹10 cr. assured for research on areca pests

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Agricultural Marketing Minister Shivananda Patil on Thursday assured legislators of arecanut growing district the release of ₹10 crore for preventing the spread of pests which were attacking the arecanut plants.

Legislators of coastal and malnad districts attended a meeting convened by Mr. Patil and during the discussions, they urged the Minister to set up a task force for recommending to the government various steps needed for safeguarding the interest of arecanut growers.

The Central Plantation Crops Research Institute has conducted research on arecanut plantations and its utility. Arecanut has been in use for long, but its medicinal properties have not been informed to the users, legislators told the Minister.

Leaf spot disease

They also urged Mr. Patil to release funds for implementing preventive measure to check leaf spot disease affecting the arecanut plants.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

With profound grief we inform the passing of our mother

Mrs. V Balambal (97)
W/o Advocate Venkatraman (Late)
on 20th July 2023

Deeply mourned by
S V Gopalen (On Load Gears)
Saraswathy Gopalen
Dr Shanti Nataraj
Brother:
S Ramachandran (Mani Iyer Trading company, Pollachi) & Maya
Grandchildren: Priya, Pritha Ram, Ramesh
Harish & Aroon Nataraj
Great Grandchildren: Karun, Manu, Amrith & Leela.

DEATH

K. S. SADASIVAM
DOB: 02-12-1934.
Reached the Lotus feet of the Lord on 20-07-23. Cremation on 21-07-23.
Deeply mourned by
Suresh, Anuradha, Nikileswari, Aditya, Advaith and family.
Ph: 73050 52501

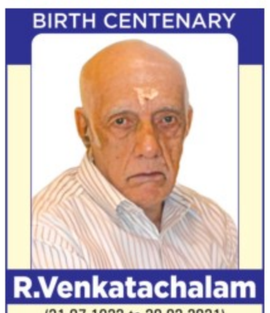
REMEMBRANCE

In loving Memory of
K.G. GIRIJA

A year has gone by without you in the midst of us. We miss you dearly.
Parasuram, Aadithya, Aishwarya, Sathya Narayanan & Arathrika
Family and friends

BIRTH CENTENARY

BIRTH CENTENARY



R.Venkatachalam
(21-07-1923 to 30-03-2021)
We Miss You Everyday
Appa...

INBRIEF

Setting up of English-medium schools at GP level suggested

Congress member K.M. Shivalinge Gowda on Thursday suggested to the government to establish English-medium schools at the gram panchayat level as many poor parents provide admission to their kids in private schools by paying huge fees and donations.

Speaking on the budgetary proposals in the Legislative Assembly on Thursday, Mr. Gowda said the government should buy 50 acres and develop new English-medium schools in each gram panchayat so that parents belonging to poor and middle class families can seek admission for their children in schools and learn English.

He spoke on the financial aspects of the Budget and blamed the previous BJP government for increasing the public debt on the State exchequer.

Assembly adopts Karnataka SC/ST land transfer Bill

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Legislative Assembly on Thursday adopted the Karnataka SC/ST (prevention of transfer of certain lands) (Amendment) Bill that seeks to remove the ambiguity over "time limitation" to prevent transfer of lands granted to SC/ST communities.

Piloting the Bill, Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda pointed out that several courts, including the Supreme Court, had cited lapse of time and ruled against the SC/ST land owners while questioning transfer of lands without permission in the cases where lands had been granted by the government to them as the lands had been alienated from the SC/ST families a long time ago in many cases. Following this, several SC/ST activists had requested the Congress before the Assembly polls to amend the law to remove time limitation constrains.

Meanwhile, amid a boycott by the Opposition BJP and Janata Dal (Secular) members, the Legislative Council on Thursday passed five Bills that were introduced in the House.

While Karnataka Land Revenue (Amendment) Bill 2023 and Karnataka Cooperative Societies (Amendment) Bill 2023 were passed by the House without discussion, Karnataka State Dispute Management Bill 2023, Registration (Karnataka Amendment) Bill, 2023, and Code of Civil Procedure (Karnataka Amendment) Bill, 2023, were discussed in the House.

Gruha Lakshmi: 60,222 apply on day 1

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

On the first day after registrations opened up for Gruha Lakshmi, the Congress government's third pre-poll guarantee scheme, 60,222 women applied to get the monthly direct benefit transfer (DBT) of ₹2,000.

While 15,276 women have registered through the mobile application, the rest have applied through the web application.

The scheme was launched by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Wednesday.

As many as 1.28 crore families are set to benefit through this scheme.

CHENNAI METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,
CIRCLE-II, CONSTRUCTION WING, FIRST FLOOR, KOYAMBEDU, CHENNAI - 600 107.

e- TENDER NOTICE Dt.19.07.2023

E-tenders are invited from the reputed firm/registered and experienced contractors by the Superintending Engineer, Circle-II, Construction Wing, CMDA, Koyambedu, Chennai – 107 under Two cover system for the works of, 1)Providing Ventilation and Air Condition Facility to the Main Terminal Building of the Proposed New Mofussil Bus Terminus at Kuthambakkam Village, Near Thirumazhisai, Thiruvallur District and 2) "Renovation and upgradation of existing Clinic building located in N-block at KWMC, Chennai - 600 107".

E-tender Notice No.	2/2023-24 dt.19.07.2023
Last date & Time of receipt of tender through online	For Sl.No.1:- 23.08.2023 at 3.00 P.M. For Sl.No.2:- 03.08.2023 at 3.00 P.M.
Downloading the tender document by Free of Cost	For Sl.No.1:- From 24.07.2023 to 23.08.2023 upto 3.00 pm For Sl.No.2:- From 20.07.2023 to 03.08.2023 upto 3.00 pm
For further details visit website	http://tntenders.gov.in

DIPR/3852/TENDER/2023
சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம் சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்
Superintending Engineer Circle-II, CW, CMDA, Chennai - 600107.

FOOD CORPORATION OF INDIA
REGIONAL OFFICE No.10, EAST END MAIN ROAD, 4th'T' BLOCK, JAYANAGAR, BENGALURU - 560041
No. RO KA-28.0015.0/1/2023-SRE-RO KA Date: 18.07.2023

e-Tender Notice

E-Tenders are invited through e-Procurement portal for Two-Bid system, for construction of Godowns at FSD Maddur in FCI, Karnataka Region. Notice Inviting Tender and Tender forms are published in the websites **http://eprocure.gov.in/** and **www.fciweb.nic.in**. Tenders should be submitted online at **http://eprocure.gov.in/** within 3.00 PM on 08/08/2023.

GENERAL MANAGER (KTK)

IN MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONES
To dedicate a space in this section, Please contact:
Bengaluru: 98455 29981, 080 - 22071826
Hubballi: 0836 - 2338600
Mangaluru: 0824 - 2417575, from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Rate for Karnataka:
Minimum: Rs. 320/- for 2 lines.
Extra line: Rs. 160/-
B/W Display: Rs. 95/- per sq.cm;
Colour Display: Rs. 105/- per sq.cm
For Placing Advertisements Online log on to www.thehinduads.com
DONATE EYES - GIFT SIGHT

Karnataka InFocus

THE HINDU

NUGGETS OF HISTORY

Basavanna's 12th Century movement

Basavanna or Basaveshwara was a saint poet, reformer, statesman and cultural leader of the 12th century Karnataka. Basavanna led a renaissance against discrimination based on caste, class and gender. He brought together peole from various caste groups to participate in intellectual discussions in Anubhava Mantapa in Basava Kalyana (now in Bidar).

Akka Gangambike, a pillar of strength

Basavanna's wife and cousin, she married early and helped him organise women Sharanas. It is believed that she was killed in a skirmish between the royal soldiers and Sharanas near Kadaravalli near Bailhongal. She is believed to have written many Vachanas with the invocation "Ganga Priya Kudalasangamadeva." But only nine of them survive.

Vachana literature and its themes

Vachanas are unique forms of spiritual, non-lyrical poetry or prose in parataxic style, produced by Sharanas, or followers of Basavanna's philosophy. It is marked by the use of simple language, brevity and rich imagery. The common theme was self realisation and rebellion against mindless religious rituals and discrimination based on caste, religion or gender.

The Kalachurya empire in the Deccan

The southern or Dakhani Kalachuri dynasty rose to power in the Deccan from around 1150 to 1200 CE. Immadi Bijjala began military service as a feudatory of the Kalyani Chalukyas wrested power from Chalukyan King Taila the third. Kalachuri Kings lost power within half a century when its fifth king decided to surrender power and territories to the Chalukyas.

The Kudalasangama Development Board

KSDB was set up by a special Act to protect monuments in Kudala Sangama and to develop it as an international centre of pilgrimage, culture and tourism in an area of about 400 acres. The Chief Minister is the chairman of the board. It has legislators, officials and experts in various fields like history, archaeology and Vachana literature as members.

A majestic memorial for Basavanna's trusted companion Gangambike

The *sanctum sanctorum* in the middle of Ghataprabha river is protected by a 105 feet tall cylindrical concrete structure; it remains cut off during heavy rains

An inside view of The Mathe Gangambike memorial. K. BHAGYA PRAKASH.

Entrance to the The Mathe Gangambike memorial. K. BHAGYA PRAKASH.

Rishikesh Bahadur Desai
BELAGAVI

Situated at around 30 kilometres from Belagav city in North Karnataka, Mugut Khan Hubli is "a small town of 12,000 souls" as the district revenue records describe it. M. K. Hubli is nothing like the more famous Hubballi, the city of robust commerce also in North Karnataka. It got its name from a 19th century Sufi saint from Vijayapura who was also a native healer. The nomad settled in this town situated on the banks of river Ghataprabha, whose name means "a pot of sunshine" in Sanskrit. Mugut Khan Dargah attracts a large number of believers from Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and other regions.

M. K. Hubli is also among the few places in the country chosen for the interment of the ashes of Mahatma Gandhi. A small memorial is built around the site of the interment off the service road below the Bengaluru-Pune national highway. Some travelers stop to pay obeisance here. Another point of the detour is the Ashwath Lakshmi Narasimha temple on the banks of the Ghataprabha, a few kilometres off the main road.

However, the most majestic of all monuments in town is the resting place of Gangambike, wife of Basaveshwara, the 12th century reformer and saint-poet fondly called Basavanna.

The unusual route

The 105-feet tall cylindrical concrete structure is built right in the middle of the river. It surrounds a temple built on the riverbed. It protects the sanctum from being immersed in the water. It has a raft connecting it to the main entrance. Visitors have to climb a few stairs to enter cantilever bridge to reach the spherical dome that covers the sanctum. They can use one of the two flights of stairs to descend into the basement to reach the stone temple. The idol is an uncarved block of black stone.

Akka Gangambike, a Sharane and a Vachana poet in her own right was the daughter of Baladeva Mantri, Basavanna's maternal uncle. She was married to Basavanna at a young age. Basavanna later also married Neelambike or Akka Neelamma, younger sister of King Bijjala of the Kalachurya dynasty of Basavakalyan. Neelamma had a son Balasangayya, who died in infancy. Neelamma and a few other Sharanas are buried in Kudalasangama across the river from Basavanna's memorial.

A view of The Mathe Gangambike memorial . K. BHAGYA PRAKASH.

Many feel that the contribution of Gangambike to the Kalyana Kranti (or the cultural revolution of Basava kalyan that broke the barriers of caste and gender) is not adequately acknowledged. It is during the two-day fair held here on Makara Sankranti and the next day that huge crowds gather here. Some, however, feel that this monument itself too has not got the recognition that it deserves. "This deserves to be developed and promoted on the lines of Kudalasangama," says G.S. Halasagi, M.K. Hubli based teacher and secretary of the Akka Gangambike Trust.

Mr. Halasagi and his colleague Gangadhar Kotagi have founded the Akka Gangambike Trust to create awareness about Gangambike. Following their campaign, B.S. Yediyurappa, former Chief Minister, released ₹5crore for the project and former bureaucrat S.M. Jamdar, as head of the Kudala Sangama Development Board, supervised the project. It was built between 2009-2012. The trust organises mass lunches every new moon day.

An inside view of The Mathe Gangambike memorial. K. BHAGYA PRAKASH.

Confusion about structure

Mr. Halasagi says people for a long time did not even know it was the grave of Gangambike. "People believed it to be the temple of Holi Gangamma. We had to create awareness among them that it was the grave of Basavanna's wife and not a local deity's temple," says Mr. Halasagi. The temple was immersed in the Malaprabha river after the Naviluteertha dam was built upstream, near Saundatti in 1975. "For decades, we could not see it for nine months in a year. After a visit to Kudala Sangama in the 1990s, we decided to urge the government to build a similar structure to protect the monument," he said.

"A lot of work has been done to protect and develop the monuments of Sharanas. But a lot more needs to be done," says Veeranna Dande, retired professor of Kannada and Vachana researcher. His three-volume work "Sharanara Smarakagalu" identifies 630 monuments associated with 125 Sharanas in 200 villages of Karnataka, Maharashtra, and undivided Andhra Pradesh.

He demands that the Lingayat Maths across the state should tie up with educational institutions and cultural organisations, to organise guided tours of such monuments. "We also need to promote the practice of discussing the intellectual contribution of these Sharanas to Indian thought. Otherwise, they will just remain another set of old buildings that we pray in,' Prof Dande said.

Basappa Pujari, commissioner, KSDB, said that a detailed project to develop the Gangambike memorial that includes infrastructure development and tourism promotion, is ready. "The State government has already approved a project of ₹ 2.5 crore. We will start work once funds are released," he said.

How she met her end

Talking about the circumstances of Gangambike's death, Shivanand Vibhutimath, M.K. Hubli-based writer, says, "King Bijjala was killed in the aftermath of Kalyana Kranthi. Upset with the turn of events, Basavanna, his family members, and followers left Basavaklayana in several batches. They moved in different directions. They faced an attack by soldiers loyal to King Rayamurari Sovideva, Bijjala's successor. Akka Gangambike was left profusely bleeding and died in Kadaravalli town, across Ghataprabha river. Her followers buried the body on the eastern banks of the river and built a stone shrine over it. It remained unnoticed for centuries, till the Kittur Kings built a stone temple in its place in the 19th century."

A view of The Mathe Gangambike memorial. K. BHAGYA PRAKASH.

Hostel Hudugaru... crosses legal hurdle

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The makers of the Kannada film*Hostel Hudugaru Bekagiddare*heaved a sigh of relief on Thursday when their film cleared a legal hurdle. The college comedy, directed by Nithin Krishnamurthy, is set to release on Friday as scheduled as a petition seeking a stay on the film's release by actor-politician Ramya was vacated by the court.

Ms. Ramya had filed a case against the film's team for "unauthorised use of her video clips" in the trailer and in the movie. The actor had sought ₹1 crore compensation from the makers.

On Thursday, the court vacated Ms. Ramya's plea. The court order said: "Interim orders of injunction granted on IA no. I and II on July 18 are vacated subject to the condition that defendants no. 1, 3, and 4 shall offer security for an amount of ₹50,00,000 by way of deposit or by way of bank guarantee to meet any claim of the plaintiff for compensation for breach of contract within one week, i.e, July 27.

"It is made clear that the said security to be offered is not an adjudicated, decided, maximum or minimum compensation, but is only as a condition for vacating the interim order, and entitlement and quantum of compensation are to be decided in the suit."

"This is my debut and the case came as a huge hurdle. We are focusing on ensuring a smooth release now," the director said.

Eight months ago, the film's team had done a promotional video featuring Ms. Ramya.

NIA busts 'Kerala IS module', arrests four

Agency says the arrests have helped prevent possible terror attacks on places of worship and attack on leaders of certain communities

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

'The accused were raising funds for promoting IS activities and for terror attacks by committing dacoity and other crimes'

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has arrested four alleged members of a 'Kerala IS module.'

The NIA raids unfolded in three locations in Thrissur and one in Palakkad on Wednesday. The agency said the arrests had helped prevent "possible terror attacks on places of worship, communal terror attacks and attack on leaders of certain communities".

The agency said it arrested one of the suspects, Ashif, from his "hideout" near Sathyamangalam in Tamil Nadu. Later, they arrested Seyid Nabeel Ahammed and T. Shiyas from Thrissur and Rayees from Palakkad.

The NIA said it seized "incriminating documents", mobile phones and other digital devices from the accused. It said the accused were "raising funds for promoting IS activities and carrying out terror attacks by committing dacoity and other criminal activities".

It said the suspects also plotted "terrorist activities" and had surveilled high-profile targets, including religious places of worship.

"The module aimed to spread terror and communal divide in Kerala," the NIA said. It said the State Police Anti-Terrorist Squad was part of the operation. A State police officer said the accused were proscribed Popular Front of India members.

The police had named Ahammed an accused in three crimes, including a murder in 2008. The raids did not yield explosives, firearms or sharp-edged weapons.

Man booked for trying to pull backdoor lever of flight

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Kempegowda International Airport police on Sunday arrested a 29-year-old software engineer working in the U.S. for trying to pull the lever of an Air France flight backdoor mid-air .

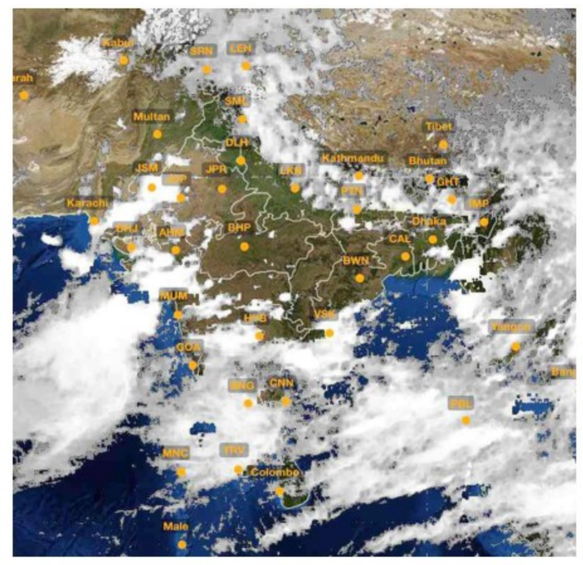
The accused was flying from Paris to Bengaluru on Saturday when the incident occurred. While the flight was four hours away to reach the destination, the accused, identified as Venkat Mohith Patipaati from Rajahmundry in Andhra Pradesh, tried to pull the lever of the left-side of the backdoor.

The aircrew noticed the suspicious behaviour and alerted the captain who questioned the accused and shifted him to a safer seat before conducting a safety audit and filing a report against him. The accused was handed over to the security of the Air France office soon after the landing who in turn handed him over to the police. He had come to visit his relatives. The police have taken him into custody and he claimed that he tried to pull the lever out of curiosity.

Based on the complaint filed by Sheeba Swaminathan, duty manager, Air France, the accused was booked under section 336 (rash and negligent act to endanger human life) and also under various sections of Aircraft Rules. The accused was later released on station bail.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.00 HRS)

Forecast for Friday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Gujarat, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Odisha, Telangana, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, central Maharashtra, Konkan & Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, Mahe and Andaman & Nicobar Islands

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	36.5	27.3	Kozhikode	5	33.4	25.7
Ahmedabad	65	35.0	25.2	Kurnool	3	28.6	24.3
Aizawl	31	34.1	21.1	Lucknow	—	37.1	29.9
Allahabad	—	37.4	29.6	Madurai	—	37.4	27.3
Bengaluru	—	28.7	20.7	Mangaluru	21.9	30.0	24.0
Bhopal	20	—	25.4	Mumbai	99	27.9	25.0
Bhubaneswar	5.4	30.2	26.3	Mysuru	—	31.0	21.6
Chandigarh	—	38.2	28.5	New Delhi	—	38.4	27.6
Chennai	0.2	36.4	28.5	Patna	—	36.5	29.2
Coimbatore	0.2	33.4	24.4	Port Blair	—	30.1	27.1
Dehradun	15	35.9	23.2	Puducherry	—	35.9	27.3
Gangtok	0.3	24.6	18.5	Pune	25.5	28.0	24.8
Goa	49	27.5	23.1	Raipur	4	33.4	26.6
Guwahati	—	37.8	26.8	Ranchi	5	30.6	23.4
Hubballi	—	25.0	23.0	Shillong	3	26.3	17.7
Hyderabad	43	23.8	21.8	Shimla	34	—	20.2
Imphal	—	30.6	22.5	Srinagar	50	—	19.6
Jaipur	—	34.8	28.0	Thiruvananthapuram	10	32.4	23.7
Kochi	0.6	30.8	25.8	Tiruchi	—	37.3	28.4
Kohima	1	30.4	18.5	Vijayawada	0.9	28.4	26.0
Kolkata	3	34.2	27.5	Visakhapatnam	—	29.8	26.8

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.32	.54	.8	61	79	
Bengaluru	.7	—	.34	153	128	
Chennai	.3	136	.49	94	83	
Delhi	—	.15	.81	101	109	
Hyderabad	.12	.7	.32	69	72	
Kolkata	.20	.13	.16	12	33	
Lucknow	.5	.32	.41	124	122	
Mumbai	—	.17	115	26	59	
Pune	131	222	109	41	36	
Visakhapatnam	.15	.39	.25	34	79	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Sri Ganganagar, Rajasthan recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 329 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Aizawl, Mizoram recorded a healthy AQI score of 17

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Issuance of notice is must prior to launching prosecution for violating Disaster Management Act guidelines: HC

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Issuance of notice to the accused, who has allegedly violated the directions issued under the Disaster Management (DM) Act, at least 30 days prior to launching of prosecution by the complainant on the alleged violation is mandatory in law, said the High Court of Karnataka.

Section 60 (b) of the DM Act, 2005, and Rule 3 of the Disaster Management (Notice of alleged offence) Rules, 2007, mandates that any person should issue notice on/of his intention to make a complaint, and that the notice should be delivered to the person against whom complaint is proposed to be made, the Court said.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna made these observations while quashing the case registered against Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar in 2021 for allegedly violating the guidelines issued under Section 51(b) of the DM Act during COVID-19 pandemic.

The case was registered as Mr. Shivakumar, who along with around 350 members of the Congress, had held a demonstration, against the rise of property tax, in Bengaluru city on January 4, 2021, in violation of the COVID-19 guidelines issued under the DM Act. The police had filed chargesheet against him after the investigation and a metropolitan magistrate court in the City on January 25 had taken cognisance of offence against him.

While analysing the provisions of the DM Act, the court pointed out that Section 60 (b) mandates that if cognisance is to be taken by a court for an offence punishable under Section 51 of the Act, a person who is arrayed as an accused should have been given a notice of not less than 30 days in the manner prescribed in the rules.

Congress MLA urges government to take over NICE project

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Congress member T.B. Jayanchandra on Thursday demanded that the government should take over the Bengaluru-Mysuru Infrastructure Corridor project of the Nandi Infrastructure Corridor Enterprises (NICE).

Participating in a debate on the State Budget, Mr. Jayachandra, who earlier headed a committee that submitted a report on the state of affairs related to BMIC as the then Law Minister, alleged that the NICE had failed to build an expressway from Bengaluru to Mysuru as per the agreement with the government.

It had also indulged in "daylight robbery" by getting benefits worth ₹20,000 crore, he alleged.

Pointing out that the company had another three years left to operate its peripheral road in Bengaluru, Mr. Jayachandra demanded that the State government should take over the project now, without waiting for the lease term to end.

Compensation

Also, the government should not pay any compensation to the firm while taking over the project, Mr. Jayanchandra demanded.

'No political angle in attempt to suicide by driver-cum-conductor'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The report of the CID that looked into the suicide attempt by a driver-cum-conductor of Nagamangala depot which had figured in the Assembly has found that there was no political instigation to the suicide attempt and that it was purely due to personal reasons.

Replying to the Assembly on the probe, Home Minister G. Parameshwara said the report had stated that the driver-cum-conductor H.R. Jagadeesh had attempted suicide only to get his transfer cancelled. The CID had now recommended filing of case against him and his colleague who had written a suicide note for him, the Home Minister said.

Action sought

Similarly, it had recommended legal action against the former MLA from Nagamangala for stopping the ambulance in which the driver-cum-conductor was being shifted to a hospital in Mysuru. It has recommended disciplinary action against the police officials concerned in Nagamangala for their failure to register a case as per the complaint by the driver-cum-conductor's wife. However, the Congress members from Mandaya district led by Malavalli MLA Narendra Swamy demanded a comprehensive probe to find out if the driver-cum-conductor was being misused by local politicians as part of their strategy to target the Congress dispensation.

Janata Dal (Secular) leader H.D. Kumaraswamy had alleged that the driver-cum-conductor had tried to commit suicide after he was transferred as part of political vendetta as his wife who is a village panchayat member was a JD (S) leader.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the notice of the general public that: We, Vatsav Infra LLP, have entered into a binding contract with Coffee Day Global Limited, having its registered office located at K.M. Road, Chikkamagalur, Karnataka - 577101, India, and corporate office located at 23/2, Coffee Day Square, Vittal Mallya Road, Bangalore - 560001 ("CDGL"), with respect to the commercial property that is situated at Municipal Nos. 23/1 and 23/2, Vittal Mallya Road, Bangalore -560 001 (morefully detailed in the Schedule hereunder and hereinafter referred to as "Schedule Property"). In accordance with the terms of the subsisting contract between us and CDGL, CDGL has agreed to transfer all its rights, title and interest in the Schedule Property for a legal and valid consideration in our favour, and we have also performed the said contract in part.

While the matter stands as above, it has come to our notice that some of the parties are approaching CDGL and persuading CDGL to enter into a transaction with them pertaining to the Schedule Property. In this context, we cause this Public Notice cautioning public at large that we have a subsisting arrangement with CDGL pertaining to the Schedule Property, and in light of the same, we request public at large not to enter into any transaction pertaining to the Schedule Property during the survival of our contract with CDGL.

Despite this notice, in the event, any person/s enter into any agreement (written or oral) with CDGL shall be doing so at their own risk and consequences. This is however without prejudice to the rights available to us in the court of law.

SCHEDULE

(Description of the "Schedule Property")

Item No. I - Leased Land Parcel 1 :

All the piece and parcel of commercial immovable property bearing Municipal No. 23/2, Vittal Mallya Road, Bengaluru - 560 001 admeasuring 50,825.04 square feet, is bounded as follows:

On the North by : Vittal Mallya road;
On the South by : St. Joseph's Indian high school;
On the East by : St. Joseph's Indian high school;
On the West by : Kasturba Road and circle.

Item No. II- Adjoining Building:

All that piece and parcel of the multi-storied commercial building constructed on the Leased Land Parcel 1, having a super built up area of 1,541.26 square meters equal to 16,590 square feet comprised in the Basement + Ground + 2 Upper Floors.

Item No. III- Leased Land Parcel 2:

All that piece and parcel of vacant land adjacent to the property mentioned above, bearing Municipal No. 23/1 admeasuring 2,850 square feet and bounded as follows:

On the North by : Leased Land Parcel 1 with access from Vittal Mallya Road;
On the South by : St. Joseph's High School Play Ground;
On the East by : St. Joseph's High School Play Ground; and
On the West by : Leased Land Parcel 1.

Item No. IV- Main Building:

All that piece and parcel of the multi-storied commercial building constructed on the Leased Land Parcel 1, comprising of 2 Basements + Ground + 10 Upper Floors + Terrace with a super built up area of 9,813.8071 square meters equal to 1,05,635.819 square feet.

VATSAV INFRA LLP,
No. 99/100, Prestige Tower, 10th Floor,Residency Road, Richmond Town, Bangalore – 560025
E-mail: premvatsav@yahoo.com

ACES LAYOUT BROOKFIELD 08049915366 | BANASWADI 7892403640
BASAVESHWARA NAGAR 8884163666 | BELGAUM 087480 40488
BTM LAYOUT 80411 13342 | FRAZER TOWN 9900632202/9844088434
HUBALI 08073575977/08364850367 | HULLIMAVU 89515 68999
JAYANAGAR 9739061919 | INDIRANAGAR 9739614607
KAMMANAHALLI 9945304940 | KOTHANUR 7090940303
KORAMANGALA 8310780489
RT NAGAR 8217756792 | YELAHANKA 6366405666
FOR BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES, CALL: 91768 40500/ 99628 54265

DEV BHOOMI UTTARAKHAND UNIVERSITY

RECRUITMENT

DEAN / DIRECTOR
Engineering | Architecture | Design
Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC)
Research & Development | Paramedical
Pharmacy

MANAGER / HoD
Incubation Cell | International Cell
HR | Business Analytics

TRAINER
Data Science | Data Analytics | Cyber Security
Machine Learning | Full Stack Development
Soft Skills Trainer | PDP & Quant Trainer
NET, PHP, ADV JAVA | CISCO CCNA
Networking | DevOps & Kubernetes
Aptitude & Reasoning | French | Spanish

PROFESSOR / ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR / ASSISTANT PROFESSOR
Computer Science & Engineering | Computer Applications | Business Analytics Management | Food Production | Pharmacy | Design | Nursing | Architecture Planning | Fashion Design | Hospital Administration | Paramedical Sciences (Pathology, Operation Theatre Technology, Optometry, Medical Microbiology, Radio Imaging Technology, Physiotherapy) | Ayurveda (BAMS)

WALK-IN-INTERVIEW
22ND & 23RD JULY 2023 (09:30AM - 05:00PM)
Institute of Wood Science and Technology, 18th Cross Malleswaram, Bangalore
Book your appointment at: dbuu.ac.in/Career
or call us at : +91-92581-26948 (HR Office) | +91-92581-26941

A break-in attempt goes 'live' on social media

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

Rarely does anyone make a theft attempt in broad daylight and it's even rarer for the accused to get caught after the CCTV footage of the attempt gets shared on social media in real time. Such a rarity led to the detention of two minor boys, aged 16, at St. Augustine's Church, Pazhanganad, in Kerala, on Monday. The drama started unfolding when vicar Father Paul Kaiparambadan happened to accidentally notice the live CCTV visuals on the monitor installed in his room around 1 p.m. A person was found trying to break into the donation box while another was seen standing guard at the church entrance.

When the vicar urged people through a WhatsApp group to turn up to foil their attempt, over a hundred people showed up, leaving the accused with no time to flee.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that my clients **Sri. Raghavendra S R and Smt. Vinutha N G** have lost the **original Sale Deed** dated **03-02-2017**, registered as **document No. SHR-1-03262/2016-17,** stored in **CD No. SHRD74,** registered in the office of the **Sub-Registrar Shanthinagar** in respect of immovable property bearing **Apartment No. B3-320, 3rd Floor of the project "VBHC Palmhaven".**

My client had also lodged a complaint dated **11-06-2023** in this regard before the Bangalore City Police, vide **Lost Report No. 0597883/2023**. Inspite of the best efforts same could not be traced.

Therefore it is requested that the general public who ever may find the said original Sale deed or person in possession of the said original document to hand over the same to the undersigned **within one week** from the date of this publication.

(P Mahalinga Bhat & Srividya P.M.)
Advocates,
Office Address: No.2386,T F-2, 3rd Floor, Keerthi Kuteeram Apartment, Pipeline Road, K.S. Layout, Bangalore – 78
Mobile - +91 9341215791
Bangalore/Dated : 20-07-2023.

NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY G20

Notice of Invitation E-Tender

Dy. CME /Carriage Workshop, Ajmer North Western Railway acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tender no. Carriage-07-2023 dated 19.07.2023. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Details are as under- 1. **Name of work with its location :** "Conversion of ICF coaches into high speed NMGHS Coaches, Qty. 180 Coaches", 2. **Approx. cost of the work :** Rs. 21,64,39,500.60, 3. **Tender Document Cost :** Rs. 00.00, 4. **Earnest Money /Bid security to be deposited :** Rs. 12,32,200.00, 5. **Date and time for submission of E-Tender :** Submission of E-Tender up to 11.08.2023 at 15.00 Hrs., 6. **Website particular :** www.ireps.gov.in, 6. **Eligibility Criteria :** Applicable. Note: Bid Security Amount may be deposited online through payment gateway facility available on the IREPS website.

755-PR/23

Follow us at /NWRailways NWRailways_

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

A warning on Delhi's projected losses due to climate change

2.75 in trillion rupees. The warning comes from the city government's draft action plan on climate change. It estimates the losses from the agriculture and allied sectors at ₹80 billion, manufacturing at ₹330 billion and services at ₹2.34 trillion. PTI

Maximum proportion of CSR money going to green causes

10 in percentage. The International Climate Collaborative (ICC) said between 2014 and 2021, environment-related causes got ₹ 6,183 crore of the funding of ₹ 67,193 crore in CSR. ICC launched a platform to help funnel more resources for such purposes. PTI

EU plans to set up defence fund in aid of Ukraine

20 in billion euros. The fund is to be spent over four years to financially assist Ukraine defeat the Russian invasion. It is being discussed that 5 billion euros will be given in aid per year during this period. Further detailed debates will take place on August 31 in Toledo, Spain. AFP

New York city agrees on compensation for racial injustice

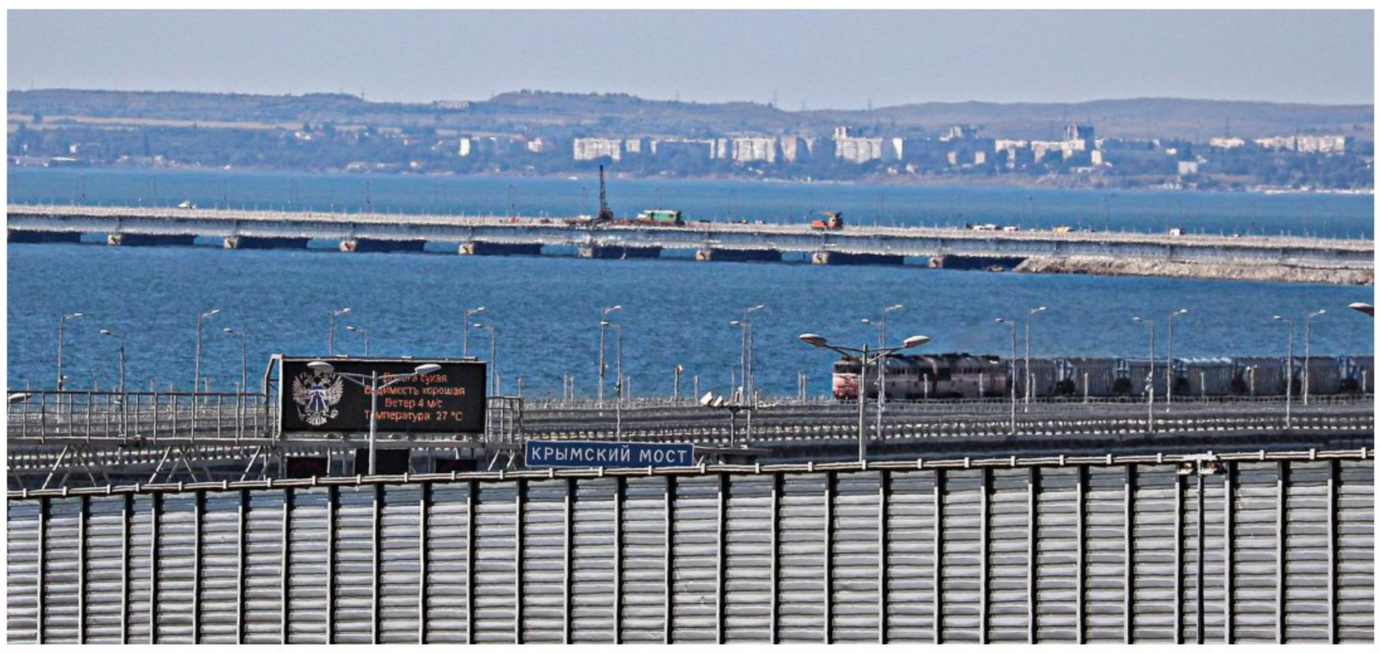
13 In $ million. The civil rights lawsuit was brought on behalf of roughly 1,300 people arrested or beaten by police during racial injustice demonstrations that swept through the city during the summer of 2020. Affected people will each be eligible for $9,950 in compensation. AP

The number of new DISCOMS that came up in the last 10 years

14 There are 180 companies engaged in power generation and 109 power distribution companies in the country, Power Minister R.K. Singh told the Lok Sabha. Most State utilities are engaged in the power distribution business. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

Follow us facebook.com/thehindu twitter.com/the_hindu instagram.com/the_hindu



Broken relations: Kerch Bridge, linking the Russian mainland to the Crimean Peninsula, after an explosion. The Russians claimed that Ukrainian Waterborne drones struck the bridge, which is a vital supply link for the Russian troops in the south of Ukraine. AFP

Why is Kerch Bridge attack significant?

What is the strategic importance of the bridge? Is Ukraine behind this attack? How did Russia respond? What was the key objective of the Ukrainian counteroffensive? Why did Russia withdraw from a UN-brokered grain deal? What guarantees did Ukraine get from its Western allies at the NATO summit?

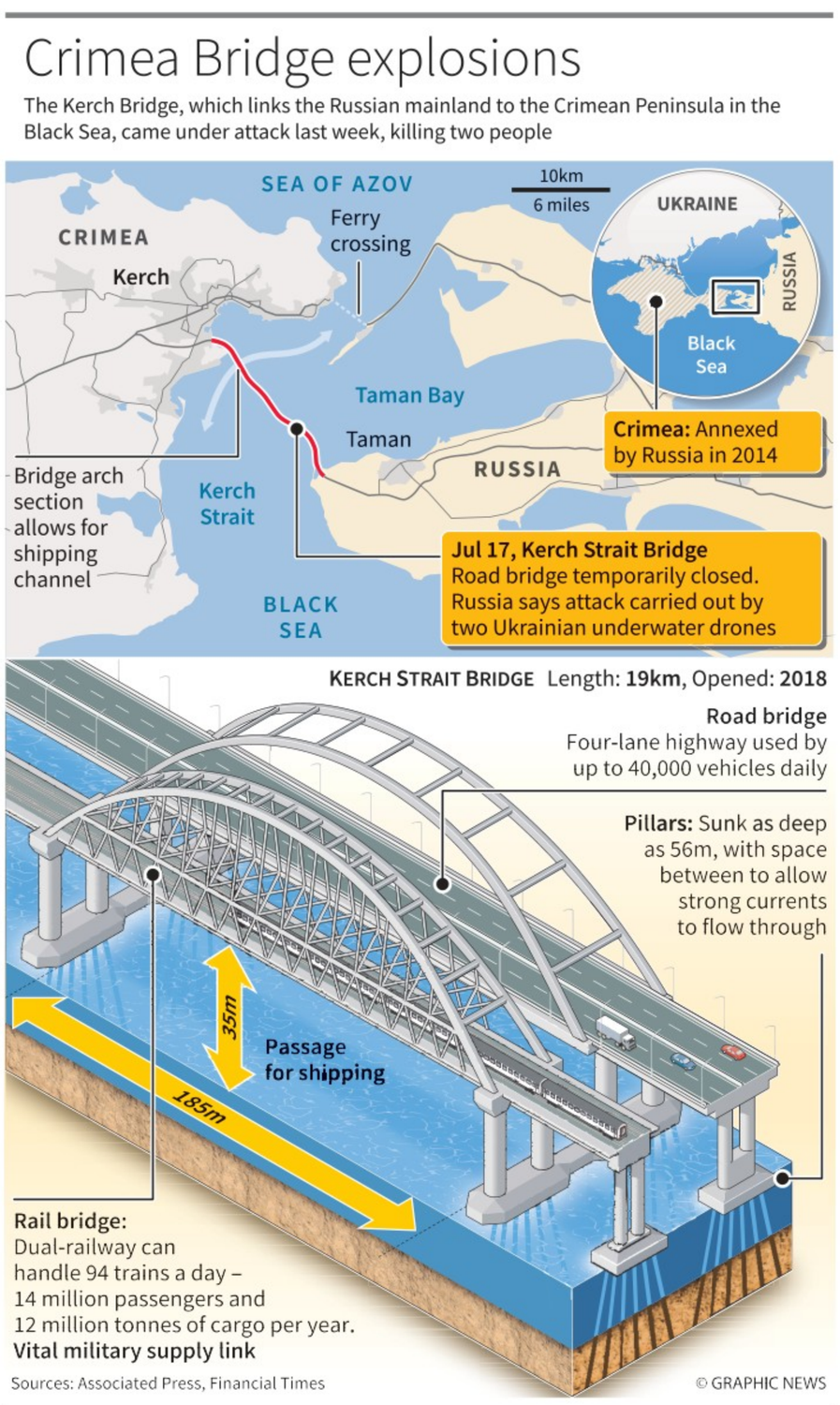
EXPLAINER

Stanly Johny

The story so far:
The Kerch Bridge, which links the Russian mainland to the Crimean Peninsula in the Black Sea, came under attack last week. One section of the bridge was damaged in what the Russians called an attack by two Ukrainian sea drones. Ukraine hasn't taken direct responsibility for the attack, but its security services SBU said details of what happened to the bridge would be revealed after "Ukraine has won the war". In retaliation, Russia carried out a massive airstrike at the southern Ukrainian port city of Odesa. Russia also announced, hours after the attack, that it was withdrawing from an UN-brokered deal that allowed Ukraine to export its grain via the Black Sea, where Russia has enforced a naval blockade.

What happened to the Kerch Bridge?
According to Russian authorities, one of the sections of the bridge was blown up killing two people and injuring a child. A video footage released by local media showed a portion of the bridge tilted and hanging down. The Kerch bridge, across the Kerch Strait, is 19 km long and has two parallel rail and roadways. It was opened in 2018 by Russian President Vladimir Putin with great fanfare, four years after Russia annexed Crimea from Ukraine through a contested referendum. Six hours after the attack, the rail service was restored, but the road remains shut. This is not the first time the bridge is being targeted. Last October, a massive truck bomb damaged the bridge and killed three people. Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy later termed the attack on the bridge one of the successful operations of the Ukrainian forces.

Why is this bridge so important?
The bridge is important for Russia for symbolic, administrative and operational reasons. When Russia swiftly moved to annex Crimea in 2014, after a pro-Russian elected government in Kyiv fell amid West-backed anti-regime protests, there was no direct connectivity between the Russian mainland and Crimea. Mr. Putin immediately ordered the construction of the bridge. But the bridge remained a weak link as Ukraine grew in military strength, backed by the West, in the subsequent years. When Mr. Putin ordered a full-scale war on February 24, 2022 (what the Russians still call a 'special military operation'), one of the military objectives, according to experts, was to secure a "land bridge" from mainland Russia to Crimea. Russia now has the land bridge extending from northeastern Ukraine through the Donbas and Kherson to Crimea, but it is not far from the frontline and well within the range of Ukrainian fire. So, the Kerch Bridge remains a critical logistical supply link for the Russian troops in the south. Last year, Ukraine targeted the Kerch Bridge when it was planning an offensive to retake kherson. The plan was to disrupt the supplies when Ukrainians attacked Russian troops on the western bank of the Dnieper River. The Russian troops withdrew from the kherson city in November to the eastern bank of the river. Last week's attack came at a time when a Ukrainian counteroffensive was under way. One of the key goals of the counteroffensive, which began in early June, was to destroy Mr. Putin's land bridge, according to the Western officials.



Ukrainian troops want to make deep thrusts into the Russian-held territories of the southeast reaching the Sea of Azov coast, which would leave Crimea further vulnerable to future Ukrainian attacks, leaving the Kerch Bridge the only link between mainland Russia and the peninsula. Ukraine also wants to disrupt Russian supplies to southern Ukraine, which is the focal area of the counteroffensive.

Where does Ukraine's counteroffensive stand?
Ukraine launched the counteroffensive with advanced weapons supplied by the West. Over the past several months, Mr. Zelenskyy has consistently campaigned for more advanced weapons from the West to fight the Russians. The U.S. and its European allies have supplied armoured vehicles, long range rockets, cruise missiles, main battle tanks and missile defence systems, besides artillery shells and ammunition. They also provide training to Ukrainian troops at different facilities in Europe and in the U.S. The U.S. alone has announced 42 aid packages for Ukraine since the Russian invasion began. In the latest package, the U.S. announced its decision to send cluster munitions, which have been banned by over 100 countries for the indiscriminate harm they cause to civilians, to Ukraine. Allies wanted Ukraine to make swift battlefield gains against Russia in the counteroffensive to put pressure on Mr. Putin. But after six weeks of fighting, Ukraine hasn't taken any breakthrough victory. Kyiv says its troops have recaptured some 210 sq. km of territories since the counteroffensive began, mostly in the southeast. But these were ghost villages along the frontline. Ukraine made these limited gains at a high cost. According to an *NYT* report, which cites American and European officials, Ukraine lost 20% of the weaponry it sent to the battlefield, including West-supplied main battle tanks and armoured vehicles, in the first two weeks of the counteroffensive.

The battle lines moved substantially only twice this year – first in January when the Russians took Soledar and then in May when the Russians took Bakhmut. The Russians have built huge fortifications along the over 1000-km long frontline, with mines and tank traps, which seem to have slowed down the much-expected Ukrainian counteroffensive. This puts Ukraine under pressure. In the recently concluded NATO summit in Vilnius, Lithuania, Ukraine got guarantees from its Western allies for more weapons and training. Kyiv also said the major thrust of the counteroffensive was yet to begin. Then came the attack on the Kerch Bridge.

THE GIST

- The Kerch Bridge, which links the Russian mainland to the Crimean Peninsula in the Black Sea, came under attack last week. Waterborne drones struck the sole bridge.
- Ukraine hasn't taken responsibility for the attack, but its security services SBU has said details of what happened to the bridge will be revealed after Ukraine has won the war.
- The bridge is important to Russia for symbolic, administrative and operational reasons.
- One of the key goals of the Ukrainian counteroffensive was to destroy the bridge, cutting off Russia from Crimea; it also wants to disrupt Russian supplies to southern Ukraine, which is the focal area.

The APMC market in Kolar. There has been a drastic decline in the arrivals of tomato this season when compared with the same period in previous years. BHAGYA PRAKASH K.

The real price of tomato farming

Tomato, which is being sold at historically high prices at the wholesale market in Kolar, is not helping farmers make profits as the crop is affected by disease and the yield is low. **K.V. Aditya Bharadwaj** visited the marketplace and the fields, where cultivators are livid with a government they claim is indifferent to their woes

Farmer Raghavendra displaying the crop that was affected by the leaf curl disease at his farm in Mangasandra village in Kolar district. BHAGYA PRAKASH K.

Ramaraj, a wholesale tomato trader from Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh, has been camping in Kolar in south Karnataka, which has now turned into a bustling centre for tomato procurement for the entire country after the crop failed in Maharashtra and elsewhere. But he is yet to make significant purchases, given the unprecedented price of the produce in the Kolar market. A 15 kg box of tomatoes was sold at ₹2,200 on July 11 at the yard, which traders believe is the highest ever since the market's inception.

At the Kolar yard, buyers come from across the country. They have been camping here for over a month now, procuring tomatoes for states as far as West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Gujarat, apart from neighbouring states like Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.

Largest supply

Karnataka, particularly Kolar, whose market is the second largest tomato trading centre in Asia, has the largest supply of tomatoes in the country. However, it is sparse compared to previous years. The situation has turned so precarious that the Union government and some states like Tamil Nadu have had to procure tomatoes in the open market, mainly from Kolar, and sell them at subsidised rates.

"A 15 kg box of tomatoes has been trading at over ₹2,000 for over a week. Sending them across to Kanpur, bearing the additional cost of nearly ₹13 per kilo, only leads to losses. Due to high prices, demand for tomatoes has fallen back home," Ramaraj said. But Rashid Bhai from the nearby Jhansi and Manoj Mishra from Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh, have been sending a few loads of tomatoes home. "The price of tomatoes back home has touched ₹200 per kilo in the retail market, and the demand has fallen. This season has become unviable," Rashid said.

This comes amidst not only rising prices but also allegations of traders hoarding tomatoes, artificially jacking up prices for buyers, even as they purchase at lower prices from farmers. The cost of tomatoes has shot up to such unprecedented levels that multiple "tomato heists" have been reported, restaurants have cut down on the use of tomatoes, and people have taken to using alternatives like tamarind, mango, and lemon for sourness in cooking at homes in Karnataka.

Dwindled supply in Kolar too

However, in Kolar, too, the crop is ravaged by leaf curl disease, and the yield is only 30-40% of the usual. Compared to previous years when the market was jam-packed during this time of the year, the arrivals at the market are sparse. This has driven prices to unprecedented levels.

Data from the Kolar Agricultural Produce Market Committee (APMC) shows a drastic decline in the arrivals of tomatoes this season compared to the same period in previous years. While 3.3 lakh quintals of tomatoes were traded at Kolar APMC in June 2023, it was 5.45 lakh quintals in June 2022, 9.3 lakh quintals in June 2021 and 6.9 lakh quintals in June 2020, indicating an over 50% drop this season.

Farmers carrying crates of tomato at the APMC market in Kolar. BHAGYA PRAKASH K.

> Though the prices are high, we are unable even to recover our investment, which has gone up several times due to the cost of spraying pesticides.
>
> **RAGHAVENDRA RAJU**
> farmer

However, the data also shows the price of tomatoes to be the highest ever since 2019. While the average minimum cost of a quintal of tomatoes was around ₹300 and the average maximum price was around ₹3,000 during 2019-2022, the average minimum price is ₹2,000 and the average maximum price ₹13,330 in July 2023.

"This season, volumes traded at our APMC seem to be the lowest in recent memory. We are the country's largest market for tomatoes from June to August. But given the scarce supply this year, traders from Bangladesh, Afghanistan, and Pakistan who used to make a beeline at the market every year haven't turned up, even as buyers from across the country have been camping here for over a month now. Though the prices have increased to unprecedented levels, farmers are reeling under losses as the volumes are very low. Only a few big farmers seem to have made some money, which seems to have unfortunately dominated the news," said N. Vijayalakshmi, Secretary, Kolar APMC.

Farmers continue to make losses

Farmers who had come to sell their produce at the market on Wednesday were upset despite a high price of ₹1,900 per box at the auction. K.C. Ramappa from Kallikuppa village, who has grown tomatoes on his meagre 1-acre farm, said despite high prices, he had suffered losses for the fourth consecutive year.

"The entire crop in the farm is infected by leaf curl disease, which has drastically reduced the yield. I used to get at least 20 harvests of 250-300, 15 kg boxes totalling around 5,000-6,000 boxes per crop. The price has been meagre for the past four years, and we incurred losses. But this year, the price may have on average fetched nearly ₹1,200 per box," he said, adding that his yield had dropped to around 30 boxes per harvest and only 6-8 harvests this crop due to the stunted growth of the infected crop.

Farmers sorting the tomatoes at the APMC market in Kolar. BHAGYA PRAKASH K.

The story of most farmers who had come to sell their produce at the Kolar APMC Yard was no different. Suresh Kumar, another farmer from Chinnappanahalli village from the district, commenting on the precariousness of the tomato crop, said it was often *"Sikkidre Shikari, Ildidre Bhikari"* (You either hit a bounty or become a pauper) and added despite the prices being very high this year, the only solace to the farmers was a reduction in the quantum of losses compared to the previous years.

At the 2.5-acre farm of Raghavendra Raju, a progressive tomato farmer in Mangasandra near Kolar town, the entire crop was infected with leaf curl disease. Plants that usually grow to a height of 5-6 feet have a stunted growth at around 2.5 feet, leading to their yield being severely cut short. "Though the prices are high, we are unable even to recover our investment, which has gone up several times due to the cost of spraying pesticides," he lamented. When *The Hindu* visited his farm, a representative of a pesticide company had come calling to prescribe "solutions" to the farm and was at the receiving end of farmers' ire, as the farmers alleged the pesticides were "ineffective" in controlling the disease.

Leaf curl disease ravages crop

S.R. Kumaraswamy, Deputy Director, Horticulture, Kolar district, said that most of the summer crop of tomatoes had been ravaged by leaf curl disease, leading to low yields. Leaf curl is a viral tomato crop disease transmitted through the white fly vector prevalent in the district's fields this summer.

"In March-April months, when the present crop was sown, the temperature was high, and there were some showers in April, which created a friendly environment for the virus to thrive and spread. Given there is no cure for viral diseases, almost the entire crop has been ravaged," he said, adding the yield of the summer crop was as low as 30-40% of the expected result. Denying farmers' charges that the department had done little to help them control the disease, he said they had been carrying out campaigns advising farmers on ways to avoid spreading the virus.

"We have advised farmers to plant maise or any such border crop at the fields to ensure the viral load is reduced by the time it reaches the tomatoes. But very few farmers have done this. Most of them have also not put up yellow sticky traps as instructed in the fields. We have also been organising workshops for nurseries to ensure the saplings there are not infected," he said.

Looking ahead

It is hoped that the skyrocketing prices of tomatoes will come down with the harvest of the next crop, expected to start by August 15 in Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh. However, the prognosis for the next crop in Kolar does not seem good, indicating there may not be much relief soon, especially given the impact of El Nino and the resultant monsoon deficit this season. Sowing for the Kharif crop during the rainy season is underway in Kolar, and the harvest of this crop is expected to start by August end. However, at least two farms *The Hindu* visited showed the new crop also developing the leaf curl disease. "There is a high chance that the Kharif crop will also be infected with the disease as it already exists in the fields. We hope there are good rains now so that there is a drop in temperature and the white fly population is washed away. If not, the disease may also become widespread in the upcoming crop," said Kumaraswamy.

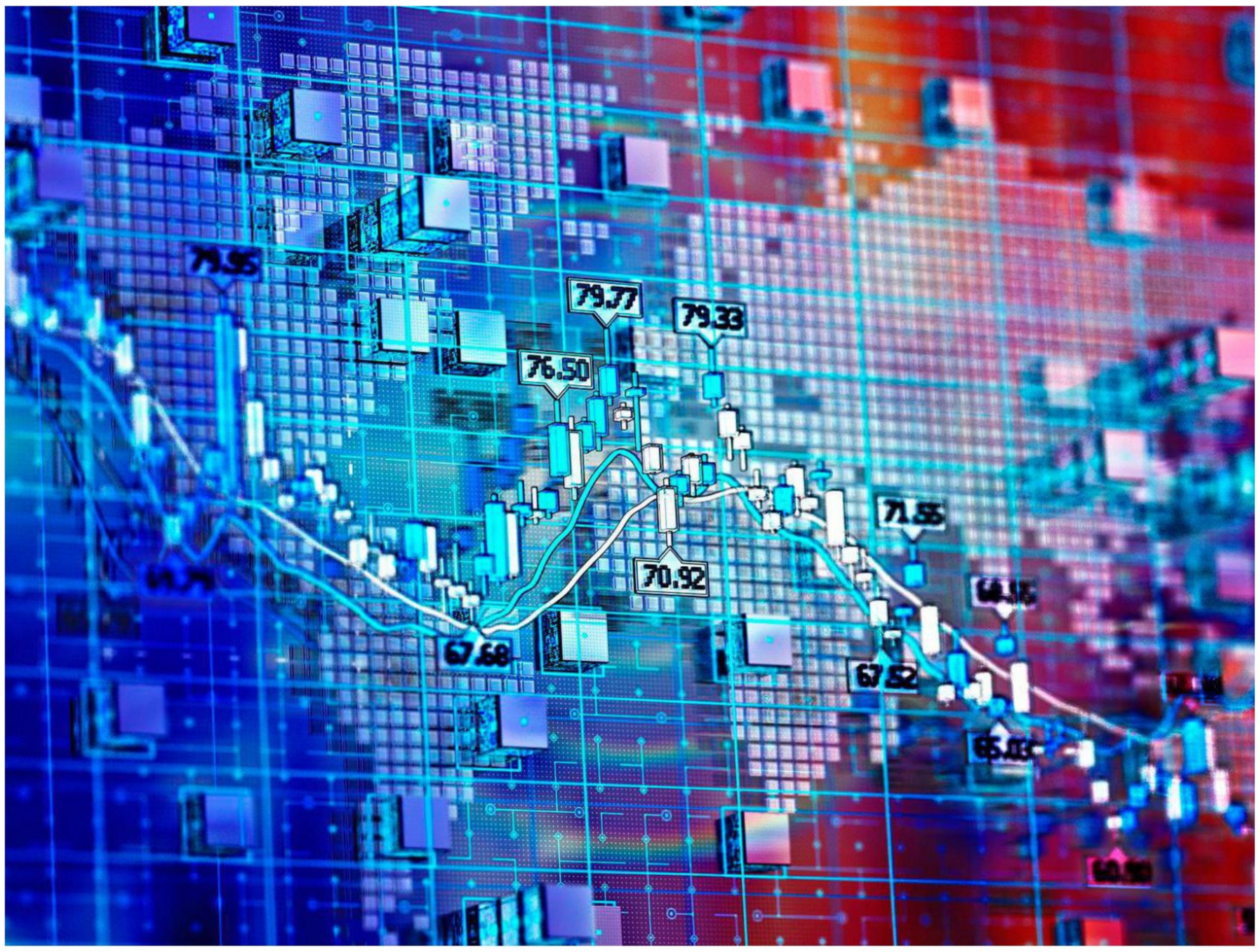
Govt. and Opposition indifference

Narayana Gowda, an outspoken farmer, said they were contemplating modes of protest to attract the government's attention to their plight.

"We want to pluck all disease-infected plants and dump them in the State capital to demand justice. Neither the government nor the Opposition has been speaking about us, even as media narratives are dominated by stories of a handful of big farmers who do mechanised farming on a large scale making profits," he said, demanding a regulatory framework for seed and pesticide companies where they are held accountable by the performance of the crop.

"The government should formulate an effective response to the disease immediately to save the upcoming crop," he said.

CACHE



Does Musk's xAI have a competitive advantage over OpenAI?

The new startup aims to loosen OpenAI's grip over AI, and the team is filled with former top researchers from Google and Microsoft; the experience of driving Tesla and Twitter is also expected to help

Poulomi Chatterjee

The last time Elon Musk took AI safety seriously was in 2015 when he co-founded OpenAI with Sam Altman. While the venture gradually took off, Mr. Musk left the founding team early on after a public spat erupted between him and Mr. Altman.

Now, the head of Tesla has founded another AI startup that aims to loosen OpenAI's grip over AI, and the multi-billionaire wants the AI firm, xAI, to do nothing less than "understanding the nature of the universe." When asked what that exactly meant, his response was all-encompassing -- he wants to understand and help others understand questions that are still unanswered about the nature of gravity, dark matter and how old the universe actually is.

To a question on how xAI will be different from other AI startups, he said: "From an AI standpoint, a maximally curious AI, one that is trying to understand the universe, is I think going to be pro-humanity." There would be none of the bias and political correctness that OpenAI's ChatGPT has so often been accused of. xAI, Mr. Musk said would build an AI that was "truth seeking."

Mr. Musk's madcap reputation might make it easier for people to ignore that xAI is well-positioned to be a serious competitor to Google AI and OpenAI. For starters, xAI's team is star-studded with top researchers from Google's DeepMind and Microsoft Research. Igor Babushkin, former Google DeepMind and OpenAI employee, worked on GPT-3.5, the base AI model behind ChatGPT. Mathematician Greg Yang worked at Microsoft Research. Jimmy Ba, assistant professor at University of Toronto, has authored research papers for Google DeepMind.

The xAI inner circle

Other names include Manuel Kroiss, who is also former DeepMind and Google AI, and Yuhai Wu, who has worked at OpenAI, DeepMind and Google in the past. (Wu has previously worked on the PaLM 2 model from Google AI, which powers Bard, Google's star chatbot).

That Mr. Musk is single-minded about xAI is clear from the people he handpicked: prolific scientists who had worked on seminal projects for their companies. Senior AI scientist at NVIDIA, Linxi Fan posted on LinkedIn about the founding members on Mr. Musk's team saying, "I'm really impressed by the talent density -- read too many papers from them to count." Another scientist and physicist, Bojan Tunguz, shared a similar sentiment saying, "Despite the fairly lofty and general aim, it is clear from the list of founding members that this is a very hard-core AI-focused endeavour."

Mr. Musk also has Dan Hendrycks from the Center for AI Safety on the advisory for xAI. The AI regulatory body popped up first in June when it published an open letter signed by AI industry leaders warning against the risks of building powerful AI models, in the aftermath of OpenAI releasing GPT-4. Notably, Mr. Musk had signed the letter.

Leveraging Twitter and Tesla

Besides the storied names attached to xAI already, there are other natural advantages that Mr. Musk already has. Tesla's Full Self-Driving (FSD) team has years of experience with building massive training datasets, perfect for an AI model to learn from. Dojo, a supercomputer that Tesla is developing for computer vision training, collects video clips and data to improve features for Tesla vehicles, are a goldmine to train an AI model. Mr. Musk explicitly stated that he expected xAI and Tesla to "mutually benefit each other" while also hoping that software developed at xAI would advance FSD capabilities for Tesla.

There's also the small matter of the bank of multimodal data from Twitter that Mr. Musk has at his disposal. "I think every AI org has used Twitter's data for training their chatbots illegally. We were being scraped like crazy. I guess, we will be using public tweets like everyone else has," he noted. This would make xAI the only AI company with direct and legal access to the microblogging network's daily churn of tweets. But for Mr. Musk, data is just the starting point. He may eventually want to build a model that could work on its own like DeepMind's programmes AlphaGo and AlphaZero. The AI programmes worked in a way where they gradually evaluated how a game was played and then taught itself how to beat humans at it. Mr. Musk believed that only if a machine behaved in this manner would it lead to AGI.

Problems in AI industry

Prominent players like OpenAI and Google have come under fire recently over privacy issues around the training data as well as AI-generated content. The Federal Trade Commission has launched an investigation into OpenAI for potential breaches of consumer protection laws, even as the EU's AI Act is in the final stages of talks. Last week, Google was hit with a lawsuit alleging it stole data from millions without their permission via scraping to train their AI models. The solution to AI's copyright problem seems imperceptible yet, given that AI models have to be trained on human content to emulate human behaviour.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

The fourth G-20 Energy Transitions Working Group met in Goa. Here's a quiz to know more about the State

Venkataraghavan S

QUESTION 1
Which famous waterfall in Goa attracts visitors with its picturesque beauty and is a tourist destination?

QUESTION 2
What is the official language of Goa?

QUESTION 3
Which famous church in Goa houses the mortal remains of St. Francis Xavier, a prominent Jesuit missionary? It is considered a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a significant pilgrimage centre.

QUESTION 4
Which popular beach in Goa is known as the "Queen of Beaches"?

QUESTION 5
Which Indo-Portuguese architectural style is prominent in the churches and buildings of Goa?

Visual Question: The image above is that of a folk dance ritual performed by women in the Konkan coastal region of Goa and Maharashtra during Hindu religious festivals. What is it called?

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1.The UN decided to mark July 20 as moon day to commemorate the moon landing in this year. **Ans: 2011**
2. Astronauts aboard the Apollo 11, Apollo 14 and Apollo 15 missions left mirrors on the surface of the moon. These mirrors are important scientific instruments that help measure speed of light, distance. Is the statement true or false? **Ans: True**
3. This character was named after the Second man on moon Buzz Aldrin in an animated movie. **Ans: Buzz Lightyear**
4."with a Silver practise— She vaulted out of Gaze". Name the poem and the poet. **Ans: I watched the Moon around the House and Emily Dickinson**
5. Name the famous mare chosen as the landing site for Apollo 11. **Ans: Sea of Tranquility**
6. 'I'll see you on the dark side of the moon' Name the song. **Ans: Brain Damage**
7. Visual: Identify this 1902 French science-fiction adventure film. **Ans: A trip to the moon**
Early Birds: Indra Sharma | Richa Sharma

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian

"Sir, Mr. K. S. Singh, Meerut, wants to know the difference between 'burned' and 'burnt'."

"There is no difference in meaning. But in usage there is some difference. In British English, 'burnt' is used generally when you want to convey that an action has been completed.

The house was burnt to ashes.
She burnt her fingers.

When the action is continuing or repeated, there is a tendency to use 'burned'.

The fire burned brightly.
He burned with desire.

In American English, 'burned' is used in all contexts except when it is used as an adjective. 'Burnt toast'. In British English also 'burnt' is used when it is used as an adjective. Most writers don't worry about these distinctions; careful writers do. 'Burned' can be pronounced 'burned' or 'burnt'. Both pronunciations are acceptable. 'Burned' rhymes with 'turned'; 'burnt' rhymes with 'learnt'."

"Sir, Ms. L. J. Patel, Baroda, wants to know the meaning of 'nullifidian'."

"A nullifidian is a person who has no faith in any religion. The word is from Latin, 'nullus', none 'fides', faith. It is pointless to talk to him about the greatness of your religion.

He is a nullifidian.

'Null' rhymes with 'dull', 'fid' rhymes with 'lid', 'ian' is pronounced like the 'ion' 'custodian'."

"Sir, several readers would like to know how to use the word 'reach'."

"'Reach' has several meanings. Let me discuss a few of them. 'Reach' means 'get to', 'go as far as'.

When I reached Calcutta, it was 5 o'clock.
When did you reach home?
It took me three days to reach here.
His voice was feeble and didn't reach us as we were in the last row.

'Reach' also means 'to get in contact with, especially by telephone'.

I tried to reach him this morning but his telephone was all the time engaged.

'Reach' also means 'to stretch out'. It may be followed by 'out' or 'for'.

He reached out his hand for the book.
He reached out his hand to her.
He reached for his gun.

Another meaning of 'reach' is 'get and give something to'.

Please reach the bottle for me.
He reached the book for her.
Could you please reach the dictionary from the top shelf?

When we reach a conclusion, we arrive at a conclusion. When something is within reach, it is near.

My house is within reach of my office.

When something is beyond reach or out of reach, it cannot be grasped or attained.

Keep the medicine beyond the reach of children.

'Reach' is used both transitively and intransitively."

Published in The Hindu on September 27,1988

Word of the day

Obtuse:
lacking in insight or slow to understand

Synonyms: dim, dull, dense

Usage: *Some of the lyrics are a bit obtuse.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/obtusepro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /əb'tju:s/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

With more than 15 chapters in India, Urban Sketchers is documenting aspects of everyday life and architecture

Drawing inspiration from cityscapes

Saraswathy Nagarajan
saraswathy.nagarajan@thehindu.co.in

A splash of red here, a dab of white there, some fine lines in black, followed by a sweep of blue.... At the end of two-and-a-half hours, the watercolours on the white paper will take on the shape of one Bengaluru's iconic landmarks; from the flowers in City Market to a colourful, delicious North Karnataka banana leaf meal at Kamat Bugle Rock. This is the scene at one of Urban Sketchers Bengaluru meet-ups.

On July 15, they met at Sri Gavi Gangaadhareshwara Temple near Kempegowda Nagar. On July 9, they were busy capturing the sights, sounds and colours of Gandhi Bazaar, near Basvanagudi. The group, which aims to capture "the spirit of Bengaluru one drawing at a time," is part of a global network of Urban Sketchers headquartered in Seattle, USA.

"We love sketching; there are no formal rules for admission to the group or membership fee," says Rohit Kulkarni, who started the Bengaluru chapter in August 2016. "All you have to do is join us on our meet-ups and sketch. The venue and timing are announced on our social media handles." They sketch "places, buildings and people that convey the essence of Bengaluru". Keeping in mind Bengaluru's long hours of commute, the chapter encourages its members to host sketchmeets in their locality. The Bengaluru chapter was recognised in 2018.

The first Indian chapter was started in Pune in 2015 by architect and art enthusiast Sanjeev Joshi. He happened to attend a symposium in Singapore as an instructor. "I enjoyed the synergy of sketching as a group. I learned how I could start a chapter in India and began one in Pune," says Sanjeev. At present, the Pune chapter is one of the biggest in India with 2,000-plus members on their Facebook page.

The second was begun in Goa in 2017 by Darpana Athale, an architect who was part of USk Pune. The chapters have grown organically across India. Every chapter has three administrators who coordinate the working of that chapter.

Going by the enthusiastic response to urban sketching, an all-India sketchers' exhibition was held in Pune in December 2022. It was also decided to have a regional coordinator for India and hold an annual exhibition for India.

At present, there are 12 active chapters in India, in addition to a few such as Chennai, Belgavi and Kochi, which were recognised on Monday as part of the international community. "There are 15 to 20 new groups that have been conducting sketch meets consistently in places such as Simla and Varanasi," says Darpana, regional coordinator of the USk chapters in India. A group has to sketch consistently for six months to become part of Urban Sketchers International. It is all voluntary and there is no rigid hierarchy.

Darpana explains that the Urban Sketchers aim at documenting their cities, space, heritage, food, culture, traditions and events. She is now the regional coordinator of the USk in India.

The artists sketch in situ for a fixed duration of time, which varies from 90 minutes to two-and-a-half hours. At the end of it, they come together to display their works and get-together for a peer review wherein inputs are given, there is a give- and-take of ideas and suggestions. Each meet is documented and shared on social media handles of individual chapters. Even the lockdown, which hit many of the Indian groups, did not stop the chapters in places like Bengaluru and Delhi.

There is no specific media; it could be pen and paper, water colour, pastels, oils, pencil on paper.

Some chapters have a distinctive identity depending on the place and interests of the members.

In Goa, the Urban Sketchers came together in May to raise awareness to save the River Mhadei.

Darpana says that when people see the group sketching, they encourage onlookers to join them to sketch.

"Apart from a mutual love for urban sketching, an urge to record the scenes around us as we see it, this also brings us together as a community, where we share ideas."

The next meeting of Urban Sketchers Bengaluru is on July 22. Details available on its instagram page uskbengaluru.

Paint my love Members of Urban Sketchers Bengaluru (below left); sketchers at work. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

World on a page

- Founded by journalist Gabriel Campanario in 2007, Urban Sketchers (USk) quickly became a world-wide group with more than 60,000 people from all walks of life. They create in situ drawings of places they visit. At present, there are 400-plus chapters worldwide. Their motto is 'We show the world, one drawing at a time!'
- In India, the first chapter of Urban Sketchers began in Pune in 2015. It is one of the biggest chapters in India with more than 2,000 members.
- Urban Sketchers Goa was the next one. It is the only one which is called by the name of the State. All the other chapters are known by the places they are located in such as Urban Sketchers Chennai, Bengaluru, Kolkata, Delhi, Jaipur, Thiruvananthapuram, Thrissur and so on.

Workshop on flamenco

If you are a fan of various dance forms, you are in for a treat this weekend. Israeli artiste Naya Binghi, known for her unique style of flamenco and contemporary fusion dance, is in the city.

Among the many accolades she has won as a dancer, Naya Binghi's short film *HISINI5* has been selected to be featured in the Manifest Dance-Film Festival in Puducherry from July 28 to 30.

Apart from her performances in Bengaluru, Naya will also be holding introductory workshops during her stint in the city. She will conduct two workshops at Shoonya to demonstrate her dance techniques on July 22 and 23.

Naya will also hold an open demonstration and talk about her journey as a dancer at Alliance de Francaise de Bangalore on July 22. This event is open to the public and entry is free.

The General Consulate of Israel to South India has made a provision to sponsor the participation fees for those who may find it challenging to afford Naya's workshops at Shoonya. Those interested in availing of this offer can mail press@bangalore.mfa.gov.il.

Workshop on Contemporary Flamenco by Naya Binghi at Shoonya on July 22 and 23 from 3-4.30pm.
Talk and Open Demonstration at Alliance de Francaise de Bangalore, on July 22, 7pm.

Mumbai, Bengaluru on Asia's 50 best bars list

Unique concepts, locally inspired cocktails, and reimagined classics impress judges, showcasing India's cocktail scene

Prabalika M Borah and Swathi Nair
prabalika.m@thehindu.co.in and
swathi.nair@thehindu.co.in

The eighth edition of Asia's 50 Best Bars awards ceremony, held at the Rosewood Hong Kong on July 18, celebrated the finest cocktail establishments in the continent. This year's list featured 17 cities and 12 countries, with Singapore leading with 10 entries, followed by Hong Kong with 10, and Japan with 7. India secured four spots on the prestigious list. Read on:

Copitas, Bengaluru **(Rank 38):**
Located on the 21st floor of the Four Seasons Hotel, Copitas has earned its place as Bengaluru's cocktail mecca. Led by Sarath Nair, the bar stands out with its uncomplicated, clean, and delicious cocktails. Judges were impressed by their green menu, utilising every part of a plant, such as seeds, roots, stems, leaves, flowers, and fruits, to craft unique cocktails.

Local ingredients including peanut brittle (*chikki*), vettivera (*khus*), nannari, and betel leaves contribute to their stand-out drinks.

The Bombay Canteen, Mumbai **(Rank 35):**
The Bombay Canteen, a bar that embraces local flavours, jumped from #76 last year to #35 on the list. Under Prantik Haldar, head of Beverage Innovations, the bar offers a selection of reimagined classics with Indian roots. Each drink pays homage to Mumbai's culture, with design elements such as a pop-up book showcasing the city's Art Deco architecture.

The Living Room, Mumbai **(Rank 48):**
Masque's The Living Room climbed from #73 to #48 on the list. Nestled on the mezzanine level of the sophisticated space in a former cotton mill, this intimate cocktail bar, led by Ankush Gamre, showcases India's flavours with a focus on innovation and sustainability.

The concise cocktail menu takes guests on a journey through India's unique tastes, presented in contemporary styles using consciously sourced ingredients. From sea buckthorn to black garlic aged in-house, the drinks reflect Masque's ethos and standards.

Sidecar, Delhi **(Rank 18):**
South Delhi's popular Sidecar, ranked 18, has earned a spot on the list for the fourth consecutive year. Owner Yangdup Lama, currently in Hong Kong preparing a new menu presentation, expressed his gratitude, stating, "It is an honour and a reflection of our team's hard work. This recognition inspires us to remain focussed on every aspect of our craft, from presentation to service, food, and aesthetics. Our patrons love us not just for our drinks but for the overall experience we offer."

A concert to celebrate compassion

Kavya Trehan, a Delhi-Based singer will perform at the Concert for Compassion.

The evening, assures Nidhi Nahata, the founder of Justbe, who is organising the concert, will be a blend of music and food.

On the menu, she adds, will be a healthy spread that she has curated consciously.

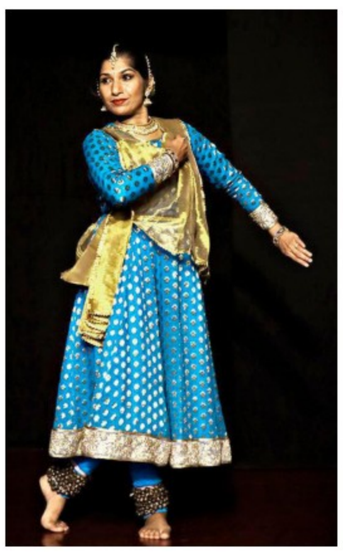
There will also be stalls with collections by Vandana Vinod and Ashli Cherian from the House of Vandy. "They make clothes with eco-friendly and planet-positive material," adds Nidhi.

Kavya, adds that she is "excited to be a part of the Concert of Compassion. We have planned a special preview of an unreleased documentary which narrates an artiste's journey. This will be followed by an audio-visual performance. An artiste's journey is never easy and compassion for oneself and the team who work with you is of utmost importance to get the best out of your art."

The proceeds from the show will go towards CARE, an animal rescue centre founded by Sudha Narayanan.

Concert for Compassion is on July 23, at Justbe, Sadashivnagar at 5pm. Contact Justbe for tickets, priced at ₹499.

STEPOUT



Baked bar bites

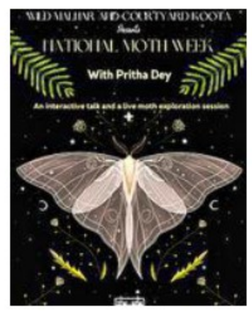
Magnolia bakery's dessert bars is lemon bar and linzer bar, will be available at all Magnolia outlets. Lemon bar is a shortbread cookie crust with tart lemon filling, dusted with powdered sugar, while the latter is a crumbly almond topping and raspberry jam. Available till the end of July.

A decade in dance

Riddham Kathak School celebrates its 10th anniversary with a dance performance — *Gati Dus* — with Sampada Pillai, the founder of the school, and her students. They will take you through their dance journey in the past decade with a rhythm of ten beats (*Jhaptaal*).
On July 28, 5.30pm at Seva Sadan, Malleshwaram

Week of the moth

Celebrate National Moth Week with Pritha Dey. The focus is on the beauty, life cycle and habitats of moths. National Moth Week is being held worldwide during the last week of July.
On July 21, 6pm at Courtyard Koota. Tickets on https://courtyardkoota.com/events/not-all-sound-and-fury/



A lot in a name

Opposition parties are confronting the BJP on its own turf of nationalism

The acronym, INDIA or Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance, that 26 Opposition political parties devised as the name for their joint platform, signifies several attributes of the collective. It can be claimed as a sign of the determination to work towards a predetermined goal. It can also be found to be a laboured and unsteady stretch – of language and politics. In naming itself after the country, the alliance is trying to confront the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) on its turf of nationalism. It hopes the name will convey to voters what it wants to – that the BJP is antagonistic to an inclusive vision of India. The parties are united in their opposition to the BJP for both tactical and ideological reasons, and the sheer birth of INDIA has been found disturbing by the ruling party. These parties have been at the receiving end of a hostile campaign by the BJP using state power. The Congress, by stating that it has no claim for the post of Prime Minister in the event of a victory in the general election in 2024, has made it easier for the alliance to take shape. The birth of INDIA marks the best coordinated effort by the Opposition to challenge the dominance of the BJP since 2014.

The Congress is the axis of INDIA, but several constituents of the formation are in direct contest with the party in many regions. In West Bengal, Punjab and Kerala, constituents of INDIA continue to fight one another. The claim of it being an alliance is unrealistic, for this and more reasons. The realisation among these parties that there is a larger political battle to fight is the strength of INDIA right now. Seat sharing among partners is going to be an extreme challenge, even as they swear by a shared vision of a pluralistic India. Several parties and leaders in the partnership face corruption investigations and trials, which make them vulnerable to enticement and pressure from the BJP. There are already reports of bruised egos and shattered ambitions among the leaders who had gathered in Bengaluru this week, but they have resolved to convene again in Mumbai. Many of these parties have a shifting approach towards the BJP and face a challenge of public credibility. Though the BJP's moral high ground has considerably eroded through its years in power, the party will continue to question its opponents on the question of dynastic politics and corruption. While the case that the Opposition is building against the BJP is intrinsically strong, there are barriers to be overcome before it appeals to a large enough segment of the public to emerge victorious.

No quick fix

India's private sector must be incentivised to see value in invention

Among the most important pieces of legislation slated to be tabled in the current monsoon session of Parliament is the National Research Foundation (NRF) Bill, 2023. While a draft is not in the public domain, it envisages a new, centralised body to fund research, with a budget of ₹50,000 crore, over the next five years. The NRF draws on models such as the United States's National Science Foundation whose nearly $8 billion budget is the major source of funding for college and university research, and the European Research Council, which funds basic and applied research. However, the NRF's plan, going by public statements of administrators, is to draw the bulk of its budget – ₹36,000 crore – from the private sector. For many years, India's spending on research has lagged between 0.6%-0.8% of GDP, or lower than the 1%-2% spent by countries with an economic base reliant on science and technology. In countries such as China, the U.S. and Israel, the private sector contributed nearly 70% of the research expenditure whereas in India, this was only about 36% of India's total research expenditure – roughly ₹1.2 lakh crore – in 2019-20. Therefore, the Centre reasons, the way to galvanise university research in India would be to attract more private money. While that is a reasonable expectation, it is unclear how such a proposal can be executed. One of the suggestions is to have the funds private companies allot, as part of their annual corporate social responsibility (CSR) obligations, directed to the NRF. Data from the Ministry of Corporate Affairs show that during FY-2022, companies spent ₹14,588 crore as part of their CSR obligations. CSR trends suggest that nearly 70% of such funds were spent in education, health care, and sanitation projects. Moreover, many of the companies spend this on initiatives that are located within their own communities, with the government not having a say on how this must be spent. Whether the government can force, or offer tax benefits, to coax some of these funds into the NRF remains to be seen.

The relatively greater contribution of private sector research in many countries is because of sustained government support to universities and research institutions, that have then encouraged individuals to build companies, and institutions that saw value in investing in research and development. The challenge in India is not the absence of such companies but the fact that there are too few of them. Organisations such as the NRF should work to create conditions which incentivise the development of private sector organisations that see value in invention and developing proprietary technology. Philanthropy is unlikely to be the panacea.

In impasse in wrestlers' case, the loser is the rule of law

B.B. Pande

is a former professor of law at Delhi University

The autonomy and the supremacy of the law cannot be taken for granted, because it is dependent on political commitment and a robust rule of law culture. Contemporary Indian society is passing through a phase of an all round weakening of the rule of law, mainly on two counts: first, a trust deficit in the colonial model of the rule of law, and second, a faith-oriented majoritarian re-imagination of laws that locate their essence in the divine providence. The malaise of such weakening is best exemplified by the case of the Indian medal-winning wrestlers and their complaints of alleged sexual harassment, where there has been no resolution even after their long sit-in protest in the national capital.

The airing of complaints

For almost a decade now, women trainee wrestlers – this also includes award-winning sportspersons – have faced and put up with alleged sexual advances and grave indignities during their training. In January 2023, some of the wrestlers began their sit-in/*dharna* at Jantar Mantar, New Delhi. Despite the Sports Ministry referring the batch of complaints to an oversight committee, there was no concrete and satisfactory outcome.

After being subjected to insensitive probings during the depositions, the wrestlers decided to resume the sit-in in late April. This time the protest appeared to be better organised; there was more public support and the survivors also approached the Supreme Court of India, where the Chief Justice of India passed orders relating to the registration of the First Information Report (FIR) under the relevant laws and providing security to the wrestlers.

As a sequel to the orders of the Court, the Delhi Police registered two FIRs: the first, under Sections 354, 354A, 354D and 506 of the Indian Penal Code and the second, under the provisions of the Protection Of Children from Sexual Offences Act (POCSO) Act in connection with the minor wrestler's allegations. With the registration of the two FIRs for the first time, the sexual harassment complaints came into the domain of criminal justice, making them the subject of police investigation as well as judicial oversight.

Following this, the alleged perpetrator and his followers began a campaign to vilify the wrestlers following growing public and even some political support. The campaign of vilification even went to the extent of critiquing the very basis of the POCSO Act. Growing support for the wrestler's cause and increasing social visibility of the issue pushed the Union Home Minister to try and resolve it politically by having a closed door meeting with the representatives of the protesting wrestlers in June, followed by a more exhaustive meeting with the Sports Minister; this also included 'advising' the protesting wrestlers who hold regular jobs to resume work. As a sequel to the talks and assured relief, the sit-in ended, with the wrestlers saying their fight would now continue in court.

> There is a weakening of the rule of law in India, best exemplified by the impasse in the wrestlers' sexual harassment complaint and the feeble administrative, judicial and political attempts to ensure justice

Slothful and selective investigation

As a key criminal justice agency that occupies the top slot in the investigation of crime, the Delhi Police ought to have responded quickly when internationally acclaimed wrestlers levelled serious charges against the perpetrator/politician who also occupies a top position in the sports world.

After the first sit-in, which also highlighted the murky goings-on in the Wrestling Federation Of India, the police could have acted as in Section 156(i) of the Code of Criminal Procedure (Cr.P.C.), i.e., "Any officer in charge of a police station may, without the order of a Magistrate, investigate any cognizable case which a Court having jurisdiction over the local area within the limits of such station would have power to inquire into or try under the provisions of Chapter XIII", like the Magistrate under Section 190(c) of the Cr.P.C.

The Delhi Police is also under legal obligation, under Section 166A(c) in the amended Penal Code of 2013, as in the amendment to the Penal Code, which makes the 'non-recording' of information about sexual offences an offence punishable up to two years imprisonment. Therefore, when the Solicitor General advised the Supreme Court on May 28 that the FIRs would be registered 'if your Lordships so directs' and the Court complied with the wish, both displayed unusual deference to the Delhi Police. The Delhi Police would have been better reminded of their obligation to follow the mandatory FIR registration, as laid down in the ruling in *Lalita Kumari* (2013).

The Delhi Police has taken its own time in investigating the crime, with a focus on the credentials of the complainants and only cursory fact gathering as far as the accused persons are concerned. Despite an FIR that falls under the POCSO Act, the prime accused person has not been interrogated or subjected to any kind of restraint even as he continues with this campaign of vilification on social media in an attempt to mount pressure on and intimidate the witnesses.

Police selectivity in the investigation became legally established when after over 40 days of investigation, the police filed its long report in two parts: a charge sheet relating to different sexual offences against the adult wrestlers, and a closure application (over 500 pages long) in connection with the POCSO Act offence. The closure application relied on an extra-legal withdrawal application by the minor, who is alleged to have made the first complaint, including a statement under Section 164 in a state of anger or dispiritedness.

Should the police have total supremacy in matters of the line of investigation, time taken and the final outcome of investigation?

The rule of law course correction

The credibility and endurability of the rule of law is critically linked to universal and equal applicability in all situations, which is ensured by the equality principle propounded by legal philosophers. In the context of the sexual harassment complaints and FIRs, the equality principle demands a free, fair and impartial investigation that ensures a just and expeditious disposition of the complaints. It appears that the legal course at the police level has been designed to be slow and selective and overly deferential to the main accused person.

But that alone is not enough to tilt the scales for or against the accused, who is equally entitled to a 'fair trial'. However, the journey of the rule of law is expected to continue without impediment; that is why the Bench in the Lalita Kumari case relied on the reason of keeping an efficient check on police powers and having the measure of 'judicial oversight' of the magistrate, the idea being to obligate the jurisdiction Magistrate to follow up on each of the FIRs. Such judicial intervention in investigation may arise from an application by the complainant directly under Section 156(3) of the Cr.P.C. or on a writ petition before the High Court. In addition, the appellate courts (High Courts and the Supreme Court of India) enjoy powers to take *suo motu* cognisance and call for an action taken report or direct the lower court to monitor the investigation.

The Supreme Court, in *Sakiri Vasu vs State of U.P.* (2008), has already imbued the magistracy with implied/inherent powers to monitor an investigation in the event of any abuse of powers. Sadly, in the case before us, the survivors have, by and large, had a raw deal. Neither the Delhi police nor the judiciary appear to have considered it worthwhile to stem the rot. They have been protesting in the open – at the site and then on the streets of Delhi – for months now. But administrative relief and judicial vindication seem distant. For the political dispensation, the 'delay' may be part of a 'smart' strategy to let the complaints lapse with time, even as it is convenient to blame the 'failing colonial model' of the rule of law.

But for all those who have a greater stake in upholding the basic ideas of the rule of law and ensuring fidelity to constitutional justice, the approach ought to be different. The need is to stand up and resort to course correction to save the soul of the rule of law. We are not alone in such a fight to save the rule of law, as in many other democracies across the world, the rule of law confronts similar threats. This appears to be why the Stockholm Criminology Symposium (June 2023), focused on the theme of 'principled and equitable law enforcement'.

India's data protection law needs refinement

Shashank Mohan

is Programme Manager at the Centre for Communication Governance, National Law University Delhi

India is no Europe, and this seems especially true in the face of a task such as drafting and conceptualising a data protection law for over 1.4 billion Indians. The European Union's (EU) data protection law, i.e., the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), came into force in the middle of 2018 and achieved widespread popularity as arguably the most comprehensive data privacy law in the world. However, the GDPR has been saddled with challenges of implementation and risks being relegated to the status of a paper tiger. Although the EU's challenges may be due to its unique legal structure, India must guard against the risks of enacting a law that is toothless in effect.

Issues around data use

This deliberation becomes increasingly relevant as the Indian government is likely to table India's fresh data protection law in the ongoing monsoon session of Parliament (July 20-August 11). Late last year, the government released the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Bill, 2022 for public consultation. This is its third recent attempt at drafting a data protection law. While the draft released for public comments was not as comprehensive as its previous versions, news reports suggest that the government may present a Bill that is largely similar. Considering this, critical gaps remain in the DPDP Bill that would affect its implementation and overall success.

In its scope and definition, the DPDP Bill only protects personal data, that is any data that has the potential to directly or indirectly identify an individual. In the modern data economy, entities use various types of data, including both personal and non-personal data to target, profile, predict, and monitor users (non-personal data is typically anonymous data that does not relate to a particular individual – for example, aggregate data on products which numerous users look at between 9 p.m. and 11 p.m. on Amazon). Often, this non-personal data when combined with other datasets can help identify individuals, and in this way become personal data, impacting user privacy.

> Changes can help make the Digital Personal Data Protection Bill, 2022 'future-proof' and ensure a better complaints mechanism

For instance, anonymous datasets about individual Uber rides in New Delhi can be combined with prayer timings to identify members who belong to a certain community, which could include their home addresses. This process of re-identification of non-personal data poses significant risks to privacy. Such risks were accounted for in previous versions of India's draft data protection Bill, in 2018 and 2019, but do not find a place in the latest draft. By not recognising these risks, the DPDP Bill is very limited in its scope and effect in providing meaningful privacy to Indians. A simple and effective solution – as in the earlier versions – would be to add a penal provision in the Bill that provides for financial penalties on data-processing entities for the re-identification of non-personal data into personal data.

Limited reach of data protection board

Another gap is the inability of the proposed data protection board to initiate a proceeding of its own accord. Under the Bill, the board is the authority that is entrusted with enforcing the law. The board can only institute a proceeding for adjudication if someone affected makes a complaint to it, or the government or a court directs it to do so. The only exception to this rule is when the board can take action on its own to enforce certain duties listed by the Bill for users. This is for the adjudication of disputes between the law and users – for example, an obligation on users not to register a false or frivolous complaint with the board, and not between users and data-processing entities.

In the data economy, users have diminished control and limited knowledge of data transfers and exchanges. Due to the ever-evolving and complex nature of data processing, users will always be a step behind entities which make use of their data. For example, a food delivery app can take all my data and sell it to data brokers in violation of my contractual relationship with them. Individually, I may have little resources or incentive to approach the data protection board.

The board, on the other hand, may be in a better position to proceed against the food delivery app on its own – on behalf of all such affected users.

This is not a novel suggestion. The Competition Commission of India, which is responsible for the enforcement of India's antitrust law, has the power to initiate inquiries on its own (and utilises it frequently). Again, a simple way to do this would be to have a provision in the DPDP Bill that allows the data protection board to initiate complaints on its own.

These are not the only gaps in the DPDP Bill, but finding solutions to them would help address challenges in implementation in a significant way and make for a more future-proof legislation.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Depraved, disturbing

The violence and the chaos in Manipur have reached a level where every living person with a functioning heart and who is sane cannot remain silent (Page 1, "Women face sexual violence in Manipur, video clip surfaces", July 20). There is absolutely no way any normal person can tolerate the way three women in Manipur were treated by a mob of beastly men. It is shocking that the police are still "clueless" after more than two months. The central and State governments have failed in their responsibility to ensure the return of peace and harmony in the State. The horrific content in the clip shows the level of depravity in Manipur.

Afazuddin Kazi Qasmi,
Assam

We are quick to tell the world that India is the 'mother of democracy', but the horrors in Manipur tell a different story. The government needs to send a strong message that any inhumane act will be put down with an iron hand. The legislation and the judiciary must work together to restore harmony in the troubled State.

M. Lakshmi Narayanan,
Mumbai

On the one hand India boasts of being one of the handful of nations to launch a lunar mission while on the other, there is silence over the perpetration of heinous crimes in Manipur. In a country where the nation is called 'Mother India' and the President of the country is a woman, what is the actual state of women? Can we condone this crime as just a one-off incident? I hope not. That a crime so perverse has been concealed for so long shows the power of the ugly people involved. Who will assure the women of India that they are safe and will continue to be safe?

N. Umamaheshwaran,
Coimbatore

Abuse, both physical and online, against women is rising across India. Incidents of sexual violence are rife. Ensuring women's safety is a critical issue that demands our collective efforts. Creating a safer environment involves educating society about gender equality, promoting respect and consent, and addressing the root causes of violence against women. It is essential to foster a culture that values and protects women's rights, enabling them to live without fear.

Sanjit Pal Singh,
Nawabganj, West Bengal

The video clip is shocking, disturbing and unacceptable. Such an inhuman act has no place in a civilised society. The community the survivors belong to is irrelevant and the State government has to act fast. The State government has to prove that it is 'for the people' and not 'for a political party'.

Hriiyio Bayo,
Manipur

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address.

Is the delimitation question settled?

O.P. Rawat,

a former IAS officer, served as the 22nd Chief Election Commissioner of India

Uday Shankar Mishra

is professor at the International Institute for Population Sciences, Mumbai

PARLEY

Delimitation is the process of redrawing boundaries of Lok Sabha and State Assembly constituencies based on a recent Census to ensure that each seat has an almost equal number of voters. The last delimitation exercise took place in 1976. While the current boundaries were drawn on the basis of the 2001 Census, the number of Lok Sabha and State Assembly seats remained frozen on the basis of the 1971 Census. In 2002, the Constitution was amended to place a freeze on the exercise until the first Census conducted after the year 2026. Should delimitation be delayed any further? O.P. Rawat and Udaya Shankar Mishra discuss the question in a conversation moderated by **Varghese K. George**. Edited excerpts:

Lok Sabha constituencies were delimited pan-India based on the 1971 population last time. Why did we decide that we should wait until 2026 before the new population figures are taken into account?

O.P. Rawat: After the 1976 delimitation, which was based on 1971 population data, a decision was taken to freeze delimitation or redistribution of seats to different States, based on decennial population data, for 25 years. This was due to imbalances in population growth between the northern and southern States. In 2002, delimitation was done, but even after that, it was felt that this issue [of population] persists, and until after the first Census after 2026, there will be no delimitation. Projections show that northern States like Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar have decennial growth rates of 12% to 15%, whereas, in the southern States, the decennial growth rates range between 6% and 10%. From 2011 to 2021 there was no levelling. It is presumed that after 2026, this levelling will take place.

In 2002, there was no redistribution of Lok Sabha seats across State boundaries. The boundaries of Lok Sabha constituencies were redrawn, but the total number of seats in particular States did not go up or down. So, the current distribution of Lok Sabha seats is as per the delimitation of 1976?

OPR: Yes. Also, the number of seats is specified by Parliament. And whenever there was a State reorganisation, it was specified in the States Reorganisation Act. For instance, when Uttarakhand was formed, it was specified that

R.K. Trivedi, Chief Election Commissioner of Delhi, with representation proposals for amendments to the The Delimitation of Council Constituencies (Mysore) Order, 1951, in 1983 in Bangalore. T.A. HAFEEZ

instead of 22 Assembly seats that it [the region] had in Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand would have a 70-seat Assembly. I feel that whenever the next delimitation is taken up, Parliament will decide what the total number of Lok Sabha seats and different Legislative Assembly seats will be. Distribution among the States will be decided by the Delimitation Commission, which will be appointed under a Delimitation Commission Act. Parliament gives them directions for devising a formula for reallocation of seats.

So, even while the basic requirement is that representation will have to be proportionate to the population — one person, one vote, one value, Parliament has the leeway to fine-tune the principle in order to ensure that in some cases, relatively fewer people will continue to elect a Parliament member?

OPR: Yes. For instance, in Tripura or Manipur, they gave two seats even though the population was not enough. Lakshadweep has one seat for just about 68,000 people. Such exceptional arrangements can always be made by Parliament. But we have universal suffrage — one person, one vote. That principle cannot be obliterated outright.

Some calculations suggest that if Lok Sabha seats were to be redistributed according to current distribution of the population, the northern States might have as many as 32 seats more, while the southern States might have up to 24 seats fewer. That scenario cannot be significantly altered by a parliamentary intervention, which might be able to deal with specific cases like isolated geographical areas or hilly areas or special

> Representation is not merely by per capita representation, it involves a greater accommodation of diverse characteristics.
> UDAYA SHANKAR MISHRA

categories of communities. Is that right?

OPR: Parliament can specify that no State will lose the number of seats that it currently has.

Professor Mishra, how do you see the regional variations in population trends?

Udaya Shankar Mishra: This very question that we are trying to address in terms of delimitation had echoed when I was involved in the Finance Commission exercise of allocating population weightage on population. Earlier, Finance Commission decisions were based on the 1971 Census. But in the most recent exercise of the Finance Commission, it was moved to the 2011 Census figures. The regional variations in population count are definitely showing a demographic divergence. Even today we are violating the 'one person, one vote, one value' principle. Parliament has this leeway to say that nowhere can seats come down. Even if the number of seats increase overall, the ratio between parliamentary representation of the northern States and southern States might widen. So, Parliament must evolve a certain normative proportionality based on population, from which a deviation can always be considered. We are going to do the delimitation exercise, but can't we have a fixed proportionality in the first place? And then allow a deviation depending on specific circumstances? If the quantum increases and if we keep the proportionality constant, the game will definitely become unequal.

If we think of a solution to this particular problem, we cannot be looking at count alone. There is judgment to be applied as to what count of proportionality should be maintained. There should definitely be a minimum of a normative of the count also. When it comes to representation, it is not the count, but the characteristic of representation which is more important. There are numbers that are larger and numbers that are smaller. Can we in the process be missing the voices of the marginal communities? For instance, the tribal people, the elderly? So, a standard proportionality norm has to be negotiated in such a manner that we do not miss out on the marginal voices when it comes to representation, in terms of allocation of seats. Representation is not merely by per capita representation, it involves a greater accommodation of diverse characteristics. And given India's diversity and the unusual concentrations of certain groups in the population, this is important to take note of.

That is why we have a whole set of group rights that are part of India's organising principles. But the starting pointing is to divide the total population by the total number of constituencies we have, to form a representative government?

OPR: Actually, going by the book, it is about headcount only. There can be specific arrangements to give representation to particular areas, for those groups to be visible. These arrangements would be political because this is a complicated matter. It will be decided by politics, Parliament. So, they will bargain to come up with some formula. But they will never try to bring in the colonial concept of different categories of voters.

Will that flexibility be wide enough to accommodate concerns that the southern States will be overwhelmed by the rising political weightage of northern States?

OPR: I feel that we are being blinkered in this issue, whereas Parliament and the political process will see it in totality. What happens if some areas get more seats in Parliament? What is the fear? Those are important issues to settle. I find that whether it is the south or the north, voters are mature and display in the same polling booth two different preferences — one for the State and another for the Centre. We should have faith in people. They will definitely come out of it when the issue comes up.

Professor Mishra, what impact do you see migration having on electoral politics? For instance, migrants from Bihar and Uttar Pradesh have become significant political constituencies in Delhi and Mumbai.

USM: Patterns that we examine indicate that mobility has increased in the last decade or so. There are two to three very distinct flows of migration happening: from the east to the south; and from the north to the west. Migrants from the east are replacing the workforce in southern States. In political terms, migrants' agency is going to play a very significant role in outcomes. Already we see candidates raising issues and concerns of migrants, for instance in Kerala.

NOTEBOOK

Journalists don't spread negativity, they provide a reality check

To tell people that 'all is well' every morning, there are sparkly WhatsApp forwards

Meera Srinivasan

"Why so negative?" Journalists are often asked this question by online bullies or others with low tolerance to a reality that isn't theirs. Stories of distress and deprivation apparently spoil their day. Agreed, reading about someone's misery is hardly reassuring. And if you're a politician holding power, and tasked with ensuring people's well-being, it can be a nuisance to have stories that challenge the good news narrative.

Overzealous sidekicks are quick to launch social media attacks on journalists who "project a negative image" of their land or leader. They attribute motives, deny the reports, or question the reporter's sources. All the same, they don't hate all stories. News reports of their leaders' rhetoric-heavy statements with flattering pictures, the government's plans and proposals, or its claim of rapid economic growth are all welcomed wholeheartedly as long as they don't point to contradictions, scrutinise official data, or highlight gaps in the implementation of a programme. Those are annoying details, spoiling the flow and spirit of their story. Context and history are equally detested.

In reality, reporters do not pick stories based on whether they are "positive" or "negative". We go by whether a story is newsworthy. And that means thinking about why it is important to report that story at that point in time, what the peg should be, and how to go about it.

We certainly enjoy telling stories of hope and courage. Reporting on them can be illuminating and uplifting. While on the school education beat many years ago, I would come across stories of poor students topping a big examination every year. Readers would write back to say how inspired they were to learn about the student's impressive achievement, and at times even offer support for her higher education. My colleagues tell inspiring stories of persons with disabilities shining in their fields, socially spirited individuals who made a difference to their communities, innovators, entrepreneurs, change-makers. My assignment in Sri Lanka has given me many opportunities to tell such stories of courage, compassion, and resilience, especially from the former war zone.

Individual stories are undoubtedly powerful. At the same time, we confront more questions while telling them: Why are some communities in poverty for generations? Is our urban infrastructure and public transport system accessible to persons with disabilities? If the economy is growing so rapidly and business enterprises are thriving, why are so many jobless? Why must a village depend on philanthropy? Why do the demands of people who have endured brutality and loss go unheard? Historic injustices and structural inequalities become evident.

Around the time the pandemic hit the world, I interviewed senior British journalist Gary Younge, known for his exceptional coverage of race and class. Reflecting on his own reporting career, he said: "There is this phrase in journalism, 'When a dog bites a man, that is not a story; when a man bites a dog, that's a story'. And I understand that. But sometimes you have to ask yourself: who owns these dogs, and why do they keep biting people, why do the same people keep getting bitten?" These questions will not lead us to "feel good" stories, but are bound to unnerve those wielding power, and those perpetuating the violence.

A conflict situation is a particularly good barometer of the state's willingness to take hard questions and criticism. The already efficient propaganda machinery works overtime to project peace, calm, and stability, when in reality, those living in the area are on the edge. Despite the best attempts of the state to underplay a crisis, information eventually comes out. Those expecting us to tell only good news stories are basically telling us, "Don't do your job". If reading about gruesome violence faced by some people in our society or the state's abject failure to contain it bursts you little bubble of contentment, we are terribly sorry. To tell you "all is well" every morning, there are sparkly WhatsApp forwards. But for a reality check, there's only journalism.

meera.srinivasan@thehindu.co.in

PICTURE OF THE WEEK

Water under the bridge

Workers of the Municipal Corporation of Delhi clean the road behind the Red Fort as floodwater recedes in New Delhi. The Yamuna floodwaters were in full flow at the ramparts of the Red Fort. Over the last few weeks, an interaction between a western disturbance and monsoon winds caused an intense rainfall spell over northwest India, including Delhi. PTI

FROM THE ARCHIVES — The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JULY 21, 1973

Trust to take over Mysore Palace

Bangalore, July 20: The former Maharaja of Mysore, Mr. Jayachamaraja Wadiyar, has given his consent to the Government proposal to convert the vast and historic Mysore palace into a trust property. This was disclosed here to-day by the Mysore Labour Minister, Mr. Aziz Sait, while talking to pressmen. The State Government wants to preserve the Palace, a landmark, in the heat of Mysore City, as a national show-piece in view of its architectural beauty. The famous Art Gallery, now housed in the nearby Jaganmohan Palace, will also be shifted to the main Palace. A broad based trust will be formed to administer the Palace. The future of the former Maharaja's Palaces in Mysore and Bangalore had been the subject of a political controversy in the State until recently. The proposal to permit the former Maharaja to alienate his Bangalore Palace had been strongly opposed by an influential section of the Congress Legislature Party. There was also some discussion on whether it formed the private property of the former Maharaja. The position in regard to the Bangalore Palace is still not known.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JULY 21, 1923

Indian coal industry

A general meeting of Colliery Proprietors, Coal Merchants, and others interested in the Coal trade will be held at Jharia on Monday the 23rd July at 4:30 p.m.in the premises of Babu Ramjas Agarwalla's New Jharia Colliery to consider the critical situation brought on the Indian Coal Industry by the large influx of foreign coals. The effect of this heavy importation of foreign coals has been simply disastrous to the cause of the Indian Coal Industry.

From Page One

SC orders Centre, Manipur govt. to act

Mr. Mehta, who has been appearing for the Manipur government in a series of separate cases related to the violence and has repeatedly given assurances that the situation is calming down, said, "We share the concern of the court."

Despite these oral assurances, the Bench made it clear to the Centre and State governments that it wanted to see immediate action. "We direct both the Centre and the Manipur government to take immediate steps – remedial, rehabilitative and preventive – and to apprise the court of the action which has been taken before the next date of listing... The affidavits shall be filed by the Union Home Secretary and the Chief Secretary for the State of Manipur," the court ordered.

It also directed the Central and State governments to provide details of the steps taken by them to hold the perpetrators of this incident accountable and to ensure that such incidents were not repeated in the strife in Manipur. The court posted the case for its next hearing on July 28.

Law will act with full might on guilty: PM

Mr. Modi was responding to the footage of two women being stripped and paraded naked in Thoubal district of Manipur. However, he did not respond to the new INDIA coalition's demand that he give a comprehensive statement on the situation in the State.

"My heart is filled with anger and anguish. The incident in Manipur is a matter of shame to any civilised society. Those who have committed this crime will be punished, but this incident has made 140 crore Indians hang their heads in shame," he said.

"I appeal to all Chief Ministers, let they be of Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh or Manipur, that they strengthen all law enforcement for the protection of women. In any corner of this country, under any party's government in any State, law and order is prioritised, and so is the honour and safety of women. I assure the people that those who have perpetrated this crime will be punished and those who do such violence to our Manipuri daughters will never be forgiven," Mr. Modi said.

Four held in Manipur sexual assault case

Mr. Singh told *The Hindu* that thousands of first information reports (FIRs) had been filed since May 3 and the police would be investigating each case "one by one." Till July 4, as many as 5,995 FIRs were registered in Manipur.

Mr. Singh said that of the around 4,000 weapons missing from police armouries, about 1,600 had been recovered so far.

According to the police, three women were stripped and paraded by a mob in violence-hit Manipur on May 4 in Thoubal, and one of them was raped. Two male relatives of one of the women were allegedly killed by the mob, which was armed with sophisticated weapons, including AK-47 rifles.

Mr. Singh said one of the suspects had been identified as Huirem Herodas Singh (32), a resident of Pechi Awang Lekai.

Ten Kuki-Zo legislators, including seven from the BJP, released a statement on Thursday detailing at least four other incidents where women belonging to the community were either raped or murdered since May 3. The legislators demanded that the cases be transferred to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). It said that 114 Kuki-Zo members had been killed.

Earlier in the day, Mr. Singh tweeted, "My hearts go out to the two women who were subjected to a deeply disrespectful and inhumane act, as shown in the distressing video... Let it be known, there is absolutely no place for such heinous acts in our society."

Constitution Bench to hear Delhi services case

The three-judge Bench headed by Chief Justice Chandrachud, however, did not accede to a request by the Delhi government to take up this case before another Constitution Bench hearing, slated for August 2, on the abrogation of Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir.

Senior advocate A.M. Singhvi, who represented the Delhi government along with Shadan Farasat, reasoned that the whole system of governance in the national capital was in a state of paralysis. "No bureaucrat is taking order and 437 consultants to the Legislative Assembly have been fired by the Lieutenant Governor (L-G)... We have to request this case to be taken up before the Article 370 one," Mr. Singhvi urged the court.

The Chief Justice, however, said it was too late to make any changes. The Article 370 case was already scheduled for August 2 and preparations and study for the hearing were already under way.

Senior advocate Harish Salve, appearing for the L-G, said that the 437 consultants were "rank illegal appointments". He countered, "They somehow happened to be party workers." Mr. Salve agreed with the court's decision to refer the case to a five-judge Bench.

Ahmedabad court rejects Setalvad's discharge plea

Order comes a day after SC granted her bail in the case of alleged fabrication of evidence related to the Gujarat riots; State government alleges 'contradictions' in the affidavits of riot victims

The Hindu Bureau
AHMEDABAD

A sessions court in Ahmedabad on Thursday dismissed social activist Teesta Setalvad's plea seeking discharge in a case related to alleged fabrication of evidence related to the 2002 Gujarat riots in which she and two former IPS officers are the key accused.

Rejecting the plea, Additional Sessions Judge A.R. Patel asked the prosecution and defence to "open the case" (start trial proceedings) from July 24.

In its affidavit opposing her plea, the State government had stated that the accused cannot be discharged because she abused the trust of the victims of the riots by creating forged documents in their name and attempted to implicate innocent people using forged papers.

Ms. Setalvad, along with former State Director-General of Police R.B. Sreekumar and former IPS officer Sanjiv Bhatt, was arrested by the City Crime Branch in June 2022 on charges of forgery and fabricating false evidence with the intent to implicate the Gujarat government functionaries in case related to the 2002 riots.

On Wednesday, the Supreme Court granted her bail and set aside the Gujarat High Court order denying regular bail to her.

Earlier, the sessions court had also rejected plea of Mr. Sreekumar seeking discharge from the case.

No relief

The court has rejected activist Teesta Setalvad's plea seeking discharge in a case related to the Gujarat riots

- The court asks the prosecution and defence to "open the case" (start trial proceedings) from July 24.
- The State government had stated that the accused cannot be discharged because she abused the trust of the victims of the riots by creating forged documents in their name.
- Ms. Setalvad's lawyer had submitted that the affidavits had been signed by witnesses and submitted before various courts.

The allegations

The State government has cited the statements of Rais Khan Pathan, who once worked with Ms. Setalvad's NGO Citizens for Justice and Peace, that all the affidavits of riot victims were prepared by her while the victims were asked to sign on blank papers.

The State government affidavit also cited a statement of another person, Narendra Brahmbhatt, who had said that Congress leader Ahmed Patel (since deceased) had paid ₹30 lakh to Ms. Setalvad.

The government also alleged "contradictions" in the affidavits of riot victims prepared by her, and their own statements recorded before various courts. "There is sufficient evidence and reasons to file a chargesheet against the accused," the affidavit said.

Rejecting the allegation that evidence was fabricated to frame innocent people, Ms. Setalvad's lawyer had submitted that the affidavits, which are alleged to be false, had been signed by witnesses and submitted before various courts.

These affidavits, therefore, cannot be considered as "fabricated evidence", the defence side said. Even testimonies of witnesses were recorded by the courts based on the signed affidavits, it pointed out.

(With PTI inputs)

Sexual harassment case: Brij Bhushan, Vinod Tomar get bail

Samridhi Tewari
NEW DELHI

A Delhi court on Thursday granted BJP MP and outgoing Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh bail in connection with a sexual harassment case filed by women wrestlers.

Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (ACMM) Harjeet Singh Jaspal of the Rouse Avenue court granted the bail and directed the accused not to leave the country without permission. Suspended WFI assistant secretary Vinod Tomar has also been granted bail.

The court also directed the two accused persons to by no means threaten or influence the complainants or witnesses. The ACMM said, "I am granting bail on a bond of ₹25,000 each with certain conditions and all conditions are to be meticulously followed." Earlier on Tuesday, the court had granted both the accused persons interim bail till Thursday.

The court said the chargesheet was filed without arrest and the accused persons cooperated with the investigation. Advocate Rajiv Mohan, representing the accused, submitted that they would abide by all the conditions put forward.

Representing the Delhi Police, the public prosecutor asked the court to try the accused as per law and impose certain conditions if relief was granted. On being asked if he was opposing the bail application, the public prosecutor said, "I am neither opposing the bail nor supporting it."

Olympian Sakshi Malik, who has been at the forefront of the wrestlers' protest since January this year, told *The Hindu* that it was disappointing that they had to see this day, despite the protests amidst rain, heat and political pressure.

"We went to the police station, we went to the Supreme Court, looking for justice. Today, we stand with no hope, a person accused of sexual harassment is given bail, where can women in the country go, if not to the courts?" Ms. Malik said.

Don't misuse facilities, CJI tells judges

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud has asked judges not to use their protocol facilities in a manner that is liable to cause inconvenience to others or to bring public criticism of the judiciary.

In a letter, the CJI referred to a recent incident when a High Court officer sought an explanation from railway personnel about the pantry staffers not serving a judge. "Protocol 'facilities' which are made available to judges should not be utilised to assert a claim to privilege...," the CJI cautioned.

Nine dead, 13 injured as car ploughs into crowd at an accident site in Ahmedabad

The Hindu Bureau
AHMEDABAD

In a horrific incident, nine people were killed and 13 grievously injured when a luxury car mowed down a crowd gathered at an accident site on a flyover on the Sarkhej-Gandhinagar highway in Ahmedabad in the early hours of Thursday.

A policeman and a home guard jawan were among those killed when the car running at an extremely high speed ploughed into the crowd on the flyover around 1 a.m., the police said.

The police have arrested Tathya Patel, son of a local builder Pragnesh Patel, who was driving the car.

Fatal crash: The car rammed into the crowd which had gathered on the flyover following an accident at the site. VIJAY SONEJI

According to sources, an SUV had collided with a truck on the flyover and a police constable and a home guard jawan rushed to the spot to manage the traffic. A crowd also gathered at the site.

"When they were on the bridge, a speeding car rammed into the crowd, killing five persons on the spot, while four persons died during treatment," said Satellite Police Inspector K.Y. Vyas.

According to the police, most of the deceased and injured were youngsters hailing from other places and were living in Ahmedabad as paying guests.

Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel announced a compensation of ₹4 lakh for the kin of each of the deceased and ₹50,000 for the injured. Health Minister Rushikesh Patel visited Sola Civil Hospital to meet the relatives and families of the victims.

(With PTI inputs)

Man booked for harassing 21 minors

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

The Special Investigation Team (SIT) of the Arunachal Pradesh police has filed a chargesheet against a former hostel warden of a government-run residential school accused of raping and sexually harassing 21 children, including six boys. The police said Yumken Bagra was booked under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act.

Another person named D. Pertin was booked under IPC Section 212 for harbouring the accused.

Academics write to Murmu on Visva-Bharati

Bishwanath Ghosh
KOLKATA

As many as 304 academics, including two Nobel-winning American economists, have written to President Droupadi Murmu, criticising Visva-Bharati Vice-Chancellor Bidyut Chakrabarty for targeting Nobel laureate Amartya Sen over allegations that the latter was illegally occupying the university's land in Santiniketan.

The letter, written by Nobel laureates George A. Akerlof and Joseph Stiglitz among others, accused Mr. Chakrabarty of being responsible "for various atrocities" including "the unlawful suspension of students and teachers" of the university.

"The latest target of his draconian rule is Prof. Sen, an alumnus of Visva-Bharati. [The university], of late, issued a series of letters, using indecent language, to Prof. Amartya Sen imposing the allegation that he illegally grabbed the land of Visva-Bharati, which they cannot substantiate," the letter said. It urged Ms. Murmu to take "appropriate action against Mr. Chakrabarty immediately".

Rights body takes up Manipur gang-rape case, issues notice

Abhinay Lakshman
NEW DELHI

This was the NHRC's first public statement about human rights violations in Manipur since violence began

Two-and-a-half months after the ethnic conflict in Manipur began on May 3, the National Human Rights Commission of India (NHRC) issued its first public statement about human rights violations in the State on Thursday.

In its statement, the NHRC said that it had taken cognisance of the May 4 incident in B. Phainom village of Kangpokpi district, where a mob of 1,000 Meitei people had abducted five members of a Kuki-Zo family while they were being escorted to safety by the Manipur Police. The mob proceeded to kill two of the men who tried to protect the women. They then stripped, paraded and sexually assaulted the women, and also gang-raped one of the women.

The commission said that it had taken up the case based on "complaints" that sought its "urgent intervention". In notices issued to the Manipur Chief Secretary and the Director-General of Police, it has sought detailed action-taken reports within four weeks.

"The Commission would also like to know about the steps taken/proposed to be taken to safeguard the human rights of the citizens, especially women and vulnerable sections of the society from such barbaric incidents," it added.

First statement

Since May 3, the NHRC has issued a total of 35 press releases. Its chairperson, Justice Arun Mishra (retd.), has addressed at least three public events. None of these statements or speeches has mentioned the violence in Manipur.

Former NHRC member Jyotika Kalra told *The Hindu*, "If they already have initiated a case, the Commission can at least go for a visit to the State to look into the case they have registered."

The NHRC did not respond to questions from *The Hindu* on what other steps had been taken to take forward the probe in the Manipur case.

Opposition MPs walk out of Rajya Sabha panel meeting

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Opposing a proposed Bill that seeks to amend the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi Act, 1991, Opposition parties staged a walkout from a meeting of the Business Advisory Committee of the Rajya Sabha on Thursday.

The government said it would allot two hours to discuss the Bill. At this point, AAP Rajya Sabha leader Sanjay Singh vehemently opposed the introduction of the Bill, pointing out that the matter is already in front of a five-judge Bench of the Supreme Court. The Opposition also insisted that their "dissent" be put on record.

Among those who walked out were Jairam Ramesh of the Congress, Derek O'Brien of the Trinamool Congress, Tiruchi Siva of the DMK, Manoj K. Jha of the RJD, and K. Keshav Rao of the BRS. Mr. Rao's participation is significant because the BRS is not part of the 26-party INDIA coalition. Mr. Rao said that the Bill is brazenly against the federal spirit of the Indian Constitution and that his party will oppose the move.

Gehlot and Pilot on Congress committee for Rajasthan poll

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI / JAIPUR

Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot and his former deputy Sachin Pilot have been named for the 29-member Pradesh Election Committee that the Congress announced on Thursday for the upcoming Assembly election in the State.

The announcement of the election panel by the All India Congress Committee (AICC) comes barely two weeks after Mr. Pilot and Mr. Gehlot agreed to a truce.

Sources had earlier told *The Hindu* that the high command was willing to offer chairmanship of the Campaign Committee to Mr. Pilot to end the leadership tussle. There was also speculation that he could be given a position in the Central Working Committee (CWC) that is likely to be announced shortly.

The panel will be headed by Pradesh Congress Committee president Govind Singh Dotasra.

Though several Ministers were appointed members, the loyalists of Mr. Gehlot dominates the committee.

Minister of State for Agricultural Marketing Murari Lal Meena was the only prominent supporter of Mr. Pilot who was accommodated in the committee.

The party had earlier indicated that it may not declare a Chief Ministerial face for the Assembly election.

APPEAL

Master Potnuri Satya Sri Akshay Ram, son of Potnuri Satish, 2 years admitted in Christian Medical College is suffering from Chronic Granulomatous disease. This is a type of genetic disorder. The best option for him would be to undergo allogeneic peripheral blood stem cell transplant (PBSCT). The estimated cost of allogeneic stem cell transplant at this hospital is approximately **Rs. 15,00,000/-**.

Please send donation however small and save the boy. Cheque/D.D/M.O favouring **Save Poor Lives** A/c Potnuri Satya Sri Akshay Ram, **Our Account Details:** S/B Account No. 20000913487. State Bank of India, R.A. Puram, and IFSC CODE: SBIN0001855, you can donate through Google Pay No. **9884607377**, UPI Id: **savepoorlives@oksbi**. All donations are exempted under 80G of I.T. ACT.

SAVE POOR LIVES REGISTERED PUBLIC CHARITABLE TRUST, Flat No. A1, Ceebros Garden, Ground Floor, Old No. 76 Kamarajar Salai, Raja Annamalaipuram, Chennai-600028. Contact No. **044 42044165 & 044 35691848,** Mobile: **9884607377,** Email: **savepoorlives@gmail.com**. Our website: **www.savepoorlives.com**

First day of Monsoon Session a washout

Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha remained adjourned for most of the day as Opposition stayed firm on its demand that Prime Minister must make a statement during a debate on the ethnic strife in Manipur in Parliament; INDIA coalition parties decide that a joint delegation will visit the State

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Parliament failed to function on the first day of the Monsoon Session, with the Opposition remaining adamant that the first order of business should be a debate on the violence in Manipur with a statement from Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Though the government said it was willing to hold a discussion on the Manipur situation, Mr. Modi was only briefly present in the Lok Sabha, and both Houses were adjourned for most of the day, owing to protests by the Opposition.

The Rajya Sabha was adjourned for the first hour of the day, as a mark of respect to Hardwar Dubey, MP and BJP leader, who passed away last month. The ruckus began at noon when the House sat down for the business of the day. The Opposition moved eight adjournment notices under Rule 267 – that requires the business of the day to be suspended – to debate the Manipur situation.

Firm stance: Opposition MPs Sanjay Singh, Tiruchi Siva, Jairam Ramesh and other leaders speaking to the media on the first day of Monsoon Session, in New Delhi on Thursday. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Leader of the House Piyush Goyal said that the government was ready for a discussion on the subject and had no objection to admitting the notices. When the Chairman allowed the notices for a short-duration discussion, the Opposition rose in protest, pointing out the empty front seat, usually occupied by the Prime Minister.

"How the Leader of the House suddenly gets up and says we are ready for a discussion? We have given notices under Rule 267 for suspending all other business of the House and then take this up. Let Prime Minister give a statement and we will discuss," Leader of the Opposition and Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said. Opposition leaders accused the government of trying to dilute the debate by taking it up under a "softer" rule, which does not require the government to reply to the debate.

Trinamool Congress floor leader Derek O'Brien reiterated that the discussion on the Manipur situation should be taken up under Rule 267. "The Prime Minister has to speak on Manipur inside the house," he said. The House was adjourned till 2 p.m.

'Allow Kharge to speak'

When it reconvened, soon after papers were laid, Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar invited Union Information and Broadcasting Minister Anurag Thakur to introduce the Cinematograph (Amendment) Bill. Protesting this, Opposition members asked the Chairman to allow Opposition leader Mr. Kharge, to speak.

Mr. Kharge said that he was feeling sorry that the Opposition's adjournment motion under Rule 267 for a discussion on the Manipur violence was not taken up for discussion.

"I have made my full efforts to attract your attention and gave notice but unfortunately, I am not allowed to raise this under Rule 267. You know Manipur is burning, women are raped and paraded naked... and Prime Minister is keeping quiet. He is giving statement outside," he said. As Opposition members started raising slogans, demanding Mr. Modi's statement on the issue, Mr. Dhankhar adjourned the House for the day.

The Lok Sabha saw bleaker scenes. The House was adjourned till lunch to pay respects to two members who recently died. At 2 p.m., BJP MP Kirit Somaiya, who was in the Chair, said that the Speaker had dismissed all of the Opposition's adjournment motions on Manipur. Papers were laid amid protests and sloganeering from the Opposition Benches.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi said that the government was ready to discuss Manipur in both Houses of Parliament and that Union Home Minister Amit Shah would reply to the discussion. As Opposition members continued raising slogans, Mr. Somaiya adjourned the House for the day.

INDIA bloc meeting

Earlier in the day, leaders of the new INDIA coalition had their first meeting to discuss their Parliamentary strategy, where they decided that the Opposition would not compromise on its position on Manipur.

The group also decided that a joint delegation, either comprising Chief Ministers of the States ruled by non-BJP parties or MPs, would visit Manipur. Former Congress president Rahul Gandhi led a party delegation to the State, and delegations from other parties have also visited the State in the past few weeks.

INBRIEF

Kuki-Zo people take out huge rally in Churachandpur

Thousands of Kuki-Zo people in Churachandpur district of Manipur on Thursday took out a rally, pressing their demand for a separate administration in light of the ongoing ethnic conflict in the State. The rally was organised by the Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum and other Kuki-Zo groups. The protesters were wearing black throughout the three-km-long march, which saw people raise slogans for separating from Manipur, and denouncing the Biren Singh government along with radical Meitei groups such as Arambai Tenggol and Meetei Leepun. The protest saw several ITLF leaders speak about the need for "total separation" from Manipur to safeguard Kuki-Zo people from the ongoing violence in the State.

Social media platforms told to censor posts on viral video

The Union government has ordered social media platforms to censor all posts featuring the viral clip of two women being sexually abused in Manipur. The sweep of the orders was wide, with immediate compliance from Twitter, Google, and Meta, which owns Facebook and Instagram; the posts to be deleted include discussions that featured blacked-out or blurred screenshots of the clip where it is not possible to identify the victims. A government official cited the need to prevent further inflammation of the situation in Manipur to justify the orders and did not address a question on why content that was discussing the incident was censored. The official said the platforms had complied with orders immediately.

Mamata proposes sending delegation of CMs to Manipur

West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday blamed the policies of the Centre for the situation in Manipur, and added that she was in talks with Chief Ministers of States ruled by parties other than the BJP to send a delegation to the State. Referring to a case of sexual violence by a mob, Ms. Banerjee said that it was a matter of disgrace and shame. "What kind of country is this where we cannot respect women? Our heart is burning, our heart is crying," the Trinamool Congress chairperson told presspersons. "This anarchy has to stop." Ms. Banerjee said that she had written to the Centre seeking permission to visit Manipur.

NDA MPs to brainstorm with Modi

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be meeting groups of National Democratic Alliance (NDA) MPs over the course of the Monsoon Session of Parliament, to consolidate some ideas ahead of the 2024 Lok Sabha election.

The first meeting will be held on July 25. Senior BJP sources told the new agency *ANI*, "Ten groups of MPs have been formed. Every day, there will be a meeting of two regions."

Questioning 'timing' of video, BJP accuses Opposition of avoiding discussion on Manipur

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Bharatiya Janata Party on Thursday accused the Opposition of disrupting Parliament and not allowing a discussion on the situation in Manipur.

It also said that the surfacing of a video – which showed two women in the State being stripped and paraded – on the eve of Parliament's Monsoon Session was "surrounded by lot of mystery".

Senior BJP leader Ravi Shankar Prasad said that the BJP condemned the incident, and asserted that strict action was being taken by the State government.

However, he raised concern over the timing of the video going viral on social media. "There is question that comes to my mind about mysterious circumstances. Today, we are in July. How come a May first week incident come up on Twitter... a day before the Parliament session to begin. This raises many questions when circumstances are filled with suspicion," he said.

Party leader Ravi Shankar Prasad asks 'how Twitter allowed such a video to be posted' despite safety mechanisms

Mr. Prasad also wondered "how Twitter allowed such a video to be posted" on its platform when there are "mechanisms" in place to prevent people with unauthenticated accounts from posting "vulnerable comments and videos".

He appealed to the people to be "a bit responsible" while posting videos with sensitive content.

Flays Congress

The BJP leader also hit out at the Congress, accusing the party of running away from a discussion on Manipur even as incidents of rape were rising in Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan.

The Congress is in power in both the States, where Assembly polls are due this year.

Accusing the Congress of double standards, he asked, "What is your approach towards sensitive issues... Sonia [Gandhi] ji , Priyanka [Gandhi Vadra] *ji*, Rahul [Gandhi] *ji*, [Mallikarjun] Kharge *ji*, why are you silent on the Jodhpur incident where four persons of a family including women were burnt alive? Did you call them or even speak to Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot."

Sonia urges PM to discuss Manipur issue in Parliament

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Congress Parliamentary Party (CPP) chairperson Sonia Gandhi urged Prime Minister Narendra Modi to have a discussion on situation in Manipur in the House, the party's leader in the Lok Sabha, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, said on Thursday.

Sonia Gandhi

Ms. Gandhi put across her demand during a brief conversation she had with Mr. Modi just before the House proceedings started. Sources said that the Prime Minister had spoken to Ms. Gandhi to enquire about her well-being after Tuesday's incident when a plane she was on developed a technical snag and made an emergency landing.

Mr. Chowdhury, however, told *The Hindu* that it is customary for the Prime Minister to exchange pleasantries with Opposition leaders on the first day of the session.

"When the session begins, it is a tradition for the Prime Minister to greet Opposition leaders and that is how he spoke to Madam. At the first opportunity, she told him that we want a discussion on Manipur in the House," he said.

"I think the Prime Minister did not expect such a question from Madam and was perhaps taken aback. He said, 'We will see.' But Madam put across her demand quite forcefully," Mr. Chowdhury added.

The Congress has stepped up its attack on the Narendra Modi government after a video of two women in Manipur being paraded naked emerged on social media.

Party president Mallikarjun Kharge said in a tweet, "Modi government and the BJP have changed democracy and the rule of law into Mobocracy by destroying the delicate social fabric of the State."

Congress communications chief Jairam Ramesh tweeted, "He [Mr. Modi] has made no appeal for peace, nor asked for the Chief Minister of Manipur to step down."

Gender parity on RS panel as Dhankhar nominates 4 women MPs

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar nominated four women MPs to the panel of vice-chairpersons.

The move gives women equal representation on the panel for the first time in the history of the Rajya Sabha, even as the women's reservation Bill, that was first introduced in 1996, remains pending.

The panel, which was reconstituted before the Monsoon Session, has a total of eight members.

New members

Among the newly nominated members, S. Phangnon Konyak has also found a berth. She is the first ever woman from Nagaland to be elected as a member of the Rajya Sabha. The other members are nominated member P.T. Usha, Biju Janata Dal's Sulata Deo and Nationalist Congress Party's Fauzia Khan.

Ms. Khan and Ms. Usha were part of the earlier panel too.

Among men who were nominated are the Congress's L. Hanumanthiah, Trinamool Congress's Sukendu Shekhar Ray and BJP's Ghanshyam Tewari.

होटल प्रबन्ध और खानपान प्रौधोगिकी संस्थान
(स्वायत्त निकाय, पर्यटन मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार)
INSTITUTE OF HOTEL MANAGEMENT AND CATERING TECHNOLOGY
(An Autonomous Body under Ministry of Tourism, Govt. of India)
KOVALAM, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM- 695527, Phone: 0471 2480283
E-mail : principal@ihmctkovalam.org, Website:www.ihmctkovalam.ac.in
LEARN AND SERVE | NCHMCT

ADMISSION NOTIFICATION
M.Sc. IN HOSPITALITY ADMINISTRATION
(ACADEMIC SESSION – 2023-24)
For details (Eligibility criteria & Application Form), please visit: www.ihmctkovalam.ac.in
Last date to apply - 25th July 2023
Advt/12/2023 Principal

BHUBANESWAR DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
AKASH SHOVA BUILDING, SACHIVALAYA MARG, BHUBANESWAR - 751001
PABX No.0674-2392801 / 0998 / 6437, FAX No.0674-2390633 / 085; Visit us at: http://www.bda.gov.in/
No.791/EM Dated : 19/07/2023
1st Corrigendum (Dtd.19/07/2023)
In pursuance of Bid Identification no.763/EM/BDA, dated 17.07.2023 the period of completion of the work mentioned at (ii) may be read as 06 (Six) calender months instead of 09 (nine) calender months & at (iii) may be read as 06 (six) calender months instead of 11 (eleven) calender months.
All other terms & conditions remain unchanged.
CAD-1365 :
Engineer Member, BDA, Bhubaneswar
OIPR-13033/11/0190/2324

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
DIRECTORATE OF STATIONERY AND PRINTING, Chennai-2
Dir.No.I2/13656/2023 TENDER NOTICE Dated:20 .07.2023
For and on behalf of the Governor of Tamil Nadu, E-tenders are invited along with required samples for fixing rate contract for the purchase of Pre-Sensitised Plates, CtP Plates, Ink, Chemicals, Rubber Blanket and Oil & Lubricants, Packing Materials, Book Binding Materials, CSPL Cartridges (for HSA Thermal Ink Jet Printer)& Special Varieties of Paper, Board and Stationery Articles from Manufacturers/Distributors and Authorized dealers as per the following schedule.

Sl.No.	Groups & items	Tender Form can be accessed	Tender opening date and time
1	Pre-Sensitised Plates	From 21.07.2023 - 11am to 22.08.2023 - 11am	23.08.2023 11.30 a.m.
2	CtP Plates		
3	Printing Inks		
4	Chemicals / Oil & Lubricants		
5	Rubber Blanket		
6	Packing Materials		
7	Binding Materials		
8	CSPL Cartridges (for HSA Thermal InkJet Printer)		
9	Special Varieties of Paper, Board and Stationery Articles		

Tender documents can be accessed from https://tntenders.gov.in
Chennai-2. Dated:20 .07.2023 DIPR/3892/TENDER/2023
General Manager.
"சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம், சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்."

CHENNAI METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER,
CIRCLE-I, CONSTRUCTION WING, FIRST FLOOR, KOYAMBEDU, CHENNAI - 600 107.
Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav
E-Tender Notice Dated: 19.07.2023
E-tenders are invited from the Government registered and experienced contractors by the Superintending Engineer, Circle-I, Construction Wing, CMDA, Koyambedu, Chennai - 107, under Two cover system for the work of "Proposed Construction of Bus Terminus in S.Nos. 67, 68, 69 & 71 at Chengalpattu, Chengalpattu District".

E-tender Notice No.	10/2023-24 dt. 19.07.2023
Last date & Time of receipt of tender through online	28.08.2023 at 3.00 pm
Downloading the tender document by Free of Cost	From 25.07.2023 at 28.08.2023 upto 3.00 pm
For further details visit website	http://tntenders.gov.in

DIPR / 3824 / Tender / 2023
Superintending Engineer
Circle-I, CW, CMDA, Chennai - 600107.
சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம் சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்

Rajasthan RERA
Rajasthan Real Estate Regulatory Authority
2nd & 3rd Floor, RSIC Wing, Udyog Bhawan,
Tilak Marg, C-Scheme, Jaipur-302005
Phone No.: 0141-2851907 Website: rera.rajasthan.gov.in
F.1 (257) RJ/RERA/2022/2201 Dated: 20/07/2023
E-Procurement RFP Notice
RAJASTHAN REAL ESTATE REGULATORY AUTHORITY invites proposals through Request for Proposal (RFP) for the Manpower supply work from prospective bidders for engagement of the services of Man Power supply for a period of one year through e-procurement portal. RFP is available on e-procurement portal website https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in/ from 20.07.2023 at 6.00 PM. Last date and time of submission of e-RFP is 14.08.2023 at 2.00 PM. Detail terms and conditions can be seen in website www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in.
Registrar
Raj.Samwad/C/23/6087 Rajasthan RERA

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited
(Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala)
Corporate Identity Number: U40109PB2010SGC033813/Website: www.pspcl.in
(Contact number 96461-47777)
Open Tender Enquiry No. TSQ-1141/TD-III/2023-24
Dy.CE/TL(Design), B-1 Shakti Vihar, Patiala invites E-Tenders for Design, Manufacturing, Supply, Testing, Laying & Commissioning of 66 kV single core XLPE (Copper) U/G Cable along with accessories on Turnkey Basis for the works of packages A & B as per PSPCL Specification No.TSQ-1141/TD-III/2023-24. For detailed NIT and Tender Specification please refer to http://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 21.07.2023 from 11.00 AM onwards
Note: Corrigendum and addendum, if any will be published online at https://eproc.punjab.gov.in.
C463/23 76155/12/1941/2023/26073

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
"e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE No.CCE,KIP-(KCD-II)-01/2023-24
(Pertaining to Kanpur Canal Division - II, Rimuli)

1.	Name of the Work	"Construction of Gamharia Sub-Minor, Tuntuna minor & Tuntuna Sub-minor off-taking from Chauthia Distributary, Sunariposi Sub- minor, Basudevpur Sub-minor & Chilikaposi Sub-minor off-taking from Gidhibas Distributary and Birikuan Minor off-taking from Kanupur Main Canal (Excluding Forest Area) including all structures of Kanupur Irrigation Project"
2.	Bid Identification No.	CCE, KIP-(KCD-II)-01/2023-24
3.	Estimated Cost	Rs.391.13 Lakh
4.	Class of Contractor	'A' Class
5.	Period of Completion	11(Eleven) Calendar Months including rainy season
6.	Date & Time of availability of bid document in the portal	24.07.2023 from 10.00 Hours to Dt.08.08.2023 up to 17.00 Hours
7.	Last date / Time for receipt of bids in the portal	08.08.2023 up to 17.00 Hours
8.	Date & Time of Opening of Tender	09.08.2023 at 11.00 Hours.
9.	Name and Address of the Officer Inviting Bid	Er. Prasanna Kumar Pani, Chief Construction Engineer, Kanupur Irrigation Project, At/PO : Basudevpur, Dist.: Keonjhar, Odisha - 758047

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement portal "https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in".
(Er. Prasanna Kumar Pani)
Chief Construction Engineer,
Kanupur Irrigation Project, Basudevpur, Keonjhar, Odisha
A-356: OIPR-32376/11/0001/2324

INBRIEF

Chandrayaan finishes fourth orbit-raising manoeuvre

The ISRO on Thursday successfully completed the fourth orbit-raising manoeuvre (earth-bound perigee firing) of the Chandrayaan-3 mission. The space agency said, "India celebrates International Moon Day 2023 by propelling Chandrayaan-3 step closer to the Moon. The fourth orbit-raising manoeuvre is performed successfully from ISTRAC/ISRO, Bengaluru." This means that Chandrayaan-3 is now in an orbit which when closest to earth is at 233 km and farthest at 71,351 km. Chandrayaan-3 was successfully launched by the Launch Vehicle Mark-3 (LVM-3) when it took off from the second launch pad of the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota at 2.35 p.m. on July 14.

HC allows Bengal Police to file FIR against Suvendu Adhikari

The Calcutta High Court on Thursday allowed the West Bengal police to register an FIR against Leader of the Opposition Suvendu Adhikari for allegedly making provocative remarks during the panchayat election. It is a setback to the BJP leader who was granted protection by the court against any FIR against him by the police. A Division Bench of Justice Indra Prasanna Mukherjee and Justice Biswarup Chowdhury while hearing a public interest litigation (PIL) petition said that police would investigate the allegations of provocative comments against Mr. Adhikari and if the complaint was admissible, the police could file an FIR.

Display age-based rating in ads: govt. to OTT platforms

The Information and Broadcasting Ministry has asked OTT platforms to ensure display of age-based classification rating in the advertisements and other promotional material published by them on various media platforms. The Code of Ethics for online curated content under the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021, provides for classification of content into age-based categories, and inclusion of the classification rating and consumer advice in any print, television, or online promotional or publicity material, said the Ministry.

Indian Army issues tenders to lease 20 light helicopters

In the latest effort to procure utility helicopters, the Indian Army has floated a tender for leasing 20 light helicopters, for reconnaissance and surveillance, for a period of five years. These are in the category of the ageing Cheetah and Chetaks, the replacement of which has been repeatedly delayed. "The Ministry of Defence (MoD) intends to lease 20 Helicopters with ground support equipment for five years. This lease will also include all maintenance support including Performance Based Logistics (PBL) and training of aircrew and maintenance crew during the term of the lease," the Request For Information (RFI) issued on Wednesday said.

16 killed, many missing as landslip buries Raigad village

Incessant rain batters Irshalwadi village; authorities say the death toll may rise as only around 100 of the 228 villagers have been accounted for; inclement weather affects rescue operations

The Hindu Bureau
PUNE

At least 16 persons were killed and 21 injured after a landslip induced by incessant rain buried the hamlet of Irshalwadi in Raigad district, 65 km from Mumbai, authorities said on Thursday.

Tragedy struck the mountainous village in Khalapur tehsil when the rockfall buried more than half of the 48 homes between 10.30 p.m. and 11 p.m. on Wednesday night.

The death toll is expected to rise significantly as only around 100 of the population of 228 have been accounted for, authorities said.

The lack of any proper motorable road to the village proved a vital factor in delaying rescue operations as heavy machinery such as earth movers and excavators could not reach the disaster site.

This compelled rescue teams from the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), besides members of NGOs and trekkers' outfits, to perform operations manually.

Depressing task: Emergency services personnel dig graves to bury the bodies of victims at the site of a landslip in Raigad district in Maharashtra on Thursday. AP

After nearly 16 hours of rescue operations since the early hours of Thursday, poor visibility, coupled with gusty winds, intense downpour, thick mud and the potential dangers of more mudslips, forced the NDRF and other rescue teams to call a halt by 4.30 p.m.

Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, who had been monitoring rescue operations from the base camp at Chouksince early morning, made the arduous hour-and-a-half trek to the disaster spot.

"We are still trying to corroborate the actual figures as some people from the village were away when disaster struck. It is an extremely unfortunate incident. The government is firmly behind the villagers in their hour of grief. We have announced a compensation of ₹5 lakh for the kin of each of the deceased, while the State will bear medical expenses of all the injured," Mr. Shinde said.

He said 50 to 60 shipping containers had been arranged for the survivors as temporary shelters and that they were being moved to safer zones.

SC urges Centre to transfer cheetahs to another location

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court (SC) on Thursday told the Union government that the deaths of 40% of the 20 cheetahs brought from South Africa and Namibia to the Kuno National Park (KNP) within a year does not present a good picture.

A Bench headed by Justice B.R. Gavai urged the government to move the big cats to a more conducive environment, if required, and not make it a "prestige issue".

"Eight cheetahs dying out of a total 20 brought here in just one year does not present a good picture. Last week alone, two died. You should look at other possibilities, like transferring them to other sanctuaries irrespective of which State government is running them. Why are you making this a prestige issue," the court asked the government.

Additional Solicitor-General Aishwarya Bhati, for the Centre, said the deaths, though unfortunate, were expected. She said there were several reasons leading to the deaths.

The SC has asked the law officer to submit an affidavit on the death of cheetahs.

The cheetah project was prestigious and the authorities are exploring various options for the well-being of the animals.

The court asked the law officer to file a detailed affidavit on the circumstances leading to the deaths and posted the case for further hearing on August 1.

On July 14, a male cheetah named Suraj, translocated from South Africa, died.

This took the total number of cheetah deaths at the park in Sheopur district since March to eight.

Another male cheetah, Tejas, brought from South Africa in February died on July 11.

Centre bans export of non-basmati white rice to control price rise in India

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union government banned the export of non-basmati white rice on Thursday. The Directorate General of Foreign Trade under the Union Commerce Ministry announced in a notification that the ban would come into effect immediately and exemptions would be given only if the loading of non-basmati rice on the ship had commenced before the notification or the shipping bill was filed and vessels had already berthed or arrived and anchored in Indian ports.

The Union Food Ministry, in a statement, said the step was taken to ensure adequate availability of non-basmati white rice in the domestic market and to curb the price rise. Non-basmati rice was exported under the category 'Free with export duty of 20%'. "The retail prices have increased by 11.5% over a year and 3% over the past month," it added.

Need of the hour: Export duty of 20% was imposed last year to lower the price and ensure availability in the country. FILE PHOTO

Export duty of 20% on non-basmati white rice was imposed last year to lower the price and to ensure availability in the domestic market. "However, the export of this variety increased from 33.66 lakh tonnes (September-March 2021-22) to 42.12 lt (September-March 2022-23) even after imposition of 20% export duty," the Centre said, adding that in 2023-24, about 15.54 lt of this variety was exported against only 11.55 lt during 2022-23. "This sharp increase in exports can be ascribed to high international prices due to geopolitical scenario, El Nino sentiments and extreme climatic conditions in other rice-producing countries, etc," the Ministry said.

Fresh consultation on UCC was initiated considering its importance: Meghwal

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The 21st law panel did not submit any report on 'Reform of Family Law', Minister tells Parliament

The Law Commission has started fresh consultations on the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) due to the "relevance and importance" of the subject and various court orders on the matter, Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal informed the Rajya Sabha on Thursday.

In a written reply to a question, the Law Minister noted that the 21st Law Commission had issued a consultation paper on "Reform of Family Law" on August 31, 2018, but did not submit any report on the subject.

"Since more than four years have lapsed from the date of issuance of the said consultation paper, the 22nd Law Commission [the present panel] decided to solicit views and ideas of the public at large and religious organisations on June 14, bearing in mind the relevance and importance of the subject matter and also various court orders on the subject of uniform civil code," he said.

Responding to another question on the modalities of the UCC, Mr. Meghwal said as the law panel was still in the process of holding consultations, "the question of modalities does not accrue at this stage".

Seeking views

The 22nd Law Commission started a fresh consultation process on June 14 by seeking views from stakeholders on the politically sensitive issue of a UCC. Though the original deadline to submit responses was July 15, the panel has now extended it to July 28.

A UCC would bring in common personal laws for all citizens of the country, which are not based on religion. Personal laws related to inheritance, adoption and succession are likely to be covered by a common code. Currently, separate personal laws apply for the members of different major religions.

The promise to implement a UCC has been part of the BJP's election manifestos. A panel was set up to formulate a common code in Uttarakhand, which is expected to come out with a draft law soon.

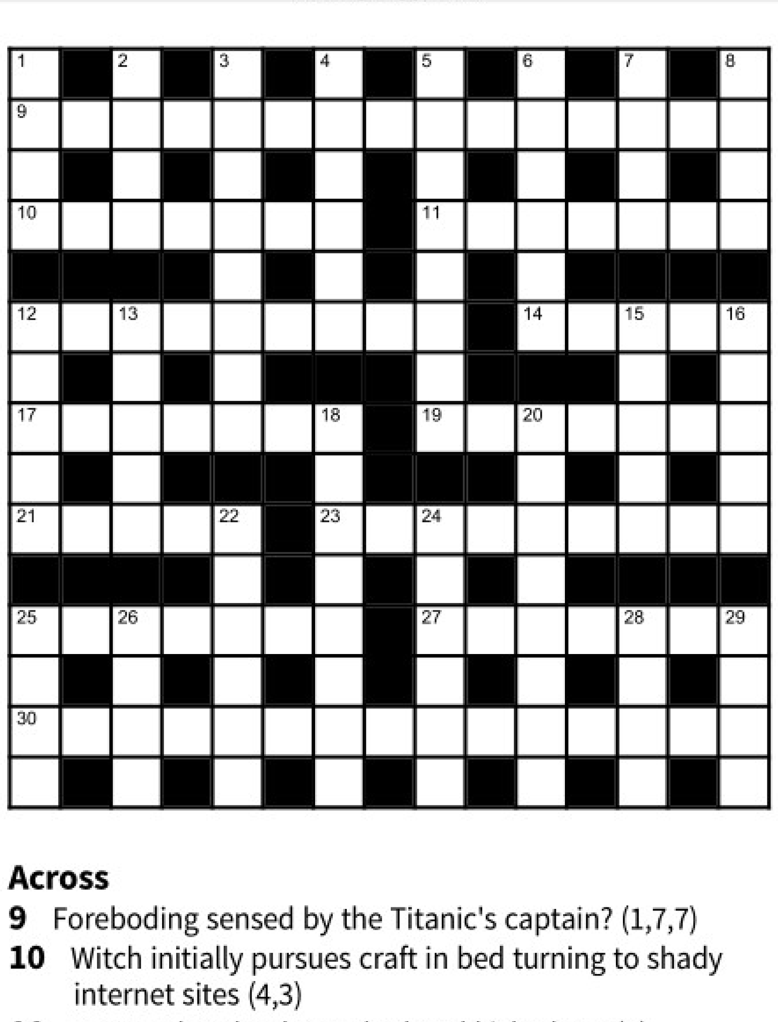
An MP asked whether the government planned to change the language of functioning of the courts from English to Hindi. The Law Minister replied in the negative.

TH CROSSWORD+ 13923

(set by Hypatia)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

9 Foreboding sensed by the Titanic's captain? (1,7,7)
10 Witch initially pursues craft in bed turning to shady internet sites (4,3)
11 Despondent leader sacked and kicked out (7)
12 Valet daily behind one covered park (9)
14 Chilling in vehicle inside sanctuary on vacation (5)
17 Changed what happened at noon? (7)
19 Pioneer taking first guided tour in Agra (7)
21 A little leopard returns stopping close to antelope (5)
23 Rescuers bring back milk, essentially to cats (9)
25 Attack ambushing small brown animal (7)
27 One serves in auditor's job? (7)
30 Completely demolish Oz theatre (4,2,3,6)

Down

1 Listen to forbidden troupe (4)
2 Belt fastener? (4)
3 Most desks arranged outside were fixed by nails (8)
4 Ma in Mumbai is regularly seen as God (6)
5 Old fellow fractures finger in the present (8)
6 Last of Pornhub's boring films - they are revolting! (6)
7 Capitals of France, Italy and Turkey in order (4)
8 Silver head frequently seen in elderly (4)
12 Long for leader from communist party (5)
13 She virtually responds at your beck and call? (5)
15 Some minor partitions hold up screen (5)
16 Pulls wild oxen without direction (5)
18 Second key outside bungalow, essentially (8)
20 Spooner's remote screen - it provides lounge access (4,4)
22 Starts to doodle really fast making sketches (6)
24 Old tiller planting nothing for acres (6)
25 Butter turns a little sour and spoils? (4)
26 Volume of loud laments (4)
28 Say, self-sufficient way to get hair trimmed? (1-3)
29 Little daughter gets new position? That's neat! (4)

SUDOKU

	6	2		8		7		
9	7				1			
			7	3				6
6						5		
	1		4		3		2	
		9						4
1				9	8			
			5				4	2
		7		4		9	5	

No.SS5864 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

Solution to previous puzzle

I	M	P	O	S	I	N	G	■	S	W	E	D	E	N
N	■	A	■	T	■	U	■	G	■	I	■	R	■	E
C	O	T	I	A	■	C	O	R	U	S	C	A	T	E
U	■	R	■	N	■	L	■	E	■	H	■	M	■	D
B	R	O	A	D	S	I	D	E	■	F	L	A	I	L
I	■	N	■	O	■	D	■	T	■	U	■	■	■	E
■	S	E	A	N	C	E	■	S	P	L	I	C	E	S
D	■	S	■	C	■	■	■	■	■	T	■	O	■	S
I	N	S	T	E	A	D	■	B	E	H	I	N	D	■
S	■	■	■	R	■	E	■	U	■	I	■	T	■	E
C	A	C	H	E	■	P	A	R	T	N	E	R	E	D
I	■	R	■	M	■	A	■	E	■	K	■	A	■	I
P	L	U	T	O	C	R	A	T	■	I	N	L	E	T
L	■	M	■	N	■	T	■	T	■	N	■	T	■	O
E	M	B	R	Y	O	■	P	E	I	G	N	O	I	R

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

1	9	4	3	6	7	8	5	2
7	5	8	9	2	4	1	6	3
6	2	3	8	5	1	9	4	7
4	1	5	7	3	8	6	2	9
8	7	6	4	9	2	5	3	1
2	3	9	6	1	5	4	7	8
5	6	2	1	8	3	7	9	4
3	4	1	5	7	9	2	8	6
9	8	7	2	4	6	3	1	5

FAITH

Andal shows us the way

The only woman Azhwar, Andal, an avatar of Bhooma Devi, chose Srivilliputtur in Tamil Nadu as the holy site for Her birth. She showed humanity how to realise God through ritualistic act of stringing a garland and singing His paeans. Why did she choose this particular spot, falling in the erstwhile Pandya kingdom as her birthplace? Referencing his guru Dr. Karunakaracharyar's verse, Thirukkudanthai Dr. Venkatesh said there are four reasons.

First, Andal donned the garland before presenting it to God. It was Dharumi, a Pandya poet who averred that women's hair has a natural fragrance, which went on to become a legendary debate known to all. Andal's birth in such a kingdom appears to reiterate Dharumi's observation. Being an avatar of Bhoomi, one may draw the conclusion that she stands for *gandham* (fragrance). Sri Vedantha Desikan observes in Goda Stuti, "She added the garland of fresh flowers to her fragrant hair and presented the same to the Lord and became His Andal [ruler]."

Secondly, She wanted to elevate Garuda to a special status, whereby he enjoys a pride of place in the sanctum sanctorum. While Hanuman is always in the company of Rama and Sita, Garuda enjoys such a standing only in a few temples, such as Tiruvellarai. By offering a similar status in Srivilliputtur, Andal shows that God embraces a devotee into His fold. Thirdly, by being raised in Periazhwar's household as his daughter, she raises his status. Lastly, She demonstrates the efficacy of offering flowers and singing hymns as the best offering to God. As Manavalamamuni says, She took birth for us, (Aadi Pooram) to show us the way in bhakti margam.

WASHINGTON

U.S. plans second summit with Pacific island leaders in September

REUTERS

U.S. President Joe Biden will host a second summit with leaders of Pacific island nations in September, Joseph Yun, the U.S. official responsible for negotiations with three key Pacific island states said on Thursday. He said the summit is expected to take place around the time of U.N. General Assembly meetings in New York. REUTERS

LONDON

U.K. sanctions people, businesses 'linked' to Wagner in Africa

REUTERS

Britain on Thursday announced sanctions against 13 individuals and businesses it said have links to the Russian mercenary group Wagner in Africa. "These sanctions expose despicable individuals who have commissioned violations of international humanitarian law Britain's Minister for Africa Andrew Mitchell said. AFP

NABLUS

Israel forces killed Palestinian in West Bank: Palestinian Ministry

AFP

Israeli forces shot dead on Thursday a Palestinian near a Jewish shrine in the occupied West Bank city of Nablus, Palestinian officials said, as the Army claimed troops had come under attack. The Israeli Army said its forces had "operated to secure the coordinated entrance of Israeli civilians to Joseph's Tomb in Nablus". AFP

BANGKOK

Thai court jails teen for 12 months over 'crop top' royal defamation

AFP

A Thai court sentenced a teenager to 12 months in prison for royal defamation on Thursday over a "crop top" he wore to a protest three years ago, a rights group said. The 19-year-old, who joined a pro-democracy protest in 2020 wearing a black crop top, also had a message painted on his body deemed a "mockery to the king". AFP

Swedish embassy in Iraq attacked; envoy expelled

The diplomatic blow-up came after a man desecrated a copy of the Koran in Stockholm; videos showed dozens of men climbing over the fence at the embassy complex; Iraqi PM vows action

Associated Press
BAGHDAD

Iraq's Prime Minister ordered the expulsion of the Swedish ambassador from Iraq and the withdrawal of the Iraqi charge d'affaires from Sweden on Thursday as a man desecrated a copy of the Koran in Stockholm.

The diplomatic blowup came hours after protesters angered by the planned burning of a copy of the Quran stormed the Swedish Embassy in Baghdad, breaking into the compound and lighting a small fire.

The Swedish Embassy announced it had closed to visitors. Prime Minister Shia al-Sudani said Iraqi authorities will prosecute the arsonists as well, referring "negligent security officials" for investigation.

The man kicked and stood on the Koran during his protest at the Iraqi Embassy in Stockholm as Swedish police stood by.

Diplomatic furore: People protesting against the burning of the Koran scale a wall at the Swedish Embassy in Baghdad. AP

Protesters stormed the Swedish Embassy in Baghdad early Thursday, breaking into the compound and lighting a small fire and setting off the diplomatic furour.

Online videos showed demonstrators at the diplomatic post waving flags and signs showing the influential Iraqi Shia cleric and political leader Muqtada al-Sadr.

Following the incident, the Swedish Embassy announced it had closed to visitors without specifying when it would reopen. Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia al-Sudani convened a meeting with security officials and said in a statement afterwards that Iraqi authorities will prosecute those responsible for the arson as well referring "negligent security officials" for investigation.

The videos showed dozens of men climbing over the fence at the complex, with the sound of them trying to break down a front door. Another showed what appeared to be a small fire being set. Other footage showed men, some shirtless in the summer heat, inside what appeared to be a room at the embassy, an alarm audible in the background.

As dawn broke, police and other security officials gathered at the embassy as small plumes of smoke still rose. Firefighters tried to douse the flames from the ladder of a fire truck. Some demonstrators still stood at the site, holding placards showing al-Sadr's face, apparently left alone by police.

The Swedish Foreign Ministry said in a statement that "our embassy staff are in safety," without elaborating. "We condemn all attacks on diplomats and staff from international organisations," the Ministry said.

Putin opted out not to 'jeopardise' summit: envoy

Agence France-Presse
JOHANNESBURG

Russian President Vladimir Putin decided against attending an upcoming BRICS summit in Johannesburg in person because he did not want to "jeopardise" the talks, a top South African diplomat said on Thursday.

Mr. Putin's potential visit had posed a diplomatic dilemma for South Africa ahead of the August 22-24 meeting. He is the target of an International Criminal Court (ICC) arrest warrant – a provision that South Africa as an ICC member would be expected to implement if he was to set foot in the country. South Africa had been under heavy international pressure not to host Russian leader.

Russia pummels Ukraine ports for the third night

Agence France-Presse
MYKOLAIV

Russian missiles and drones hit the Ukrainian port of Odesa for a third "hellish" night in a row as Crimean authorities said a teenager had been killed in Kyiv's latest attack on the peninsula.

Russian forces also targeted Mykolaiv, another Black Sea port through which Ukrainian grain is exported, after Moscow's exit from a key deal giving ships safe passage. At least two people died and more than 20 people were wounded after strikes on the port cities, officials said, posting images of buildings in flames with facades partially destroyed.

The Chinese consulate in Odesa was also damaged, they said.

Desperate search: Emergency service personnel working at the site of a destroyed building in Odesa on Thursday. AP

Russia pounded Odesa and Mykolaiv with 19 cruise missiles and 19 drones, the Ukrainian Air Force said, after Russian President Vladimir Putin vowed to exact revenge after an attack on a bridge linking annexed Crimea to Russia.

A number of residential buildings as well as stores, cafes and banks in the city were damaged, while some continued to burn in the hours after the strikes.

Rescue teams were searching through the debris under pouring rain to find survivors.

"Russian terrorists are continuing their attempts to destroy the life of our country," said Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

'China doesn't want a trade war with U.S.'

Associated Press
COLORADO

China does not want a trade war with the United States but will retaliate against any further U.S. restrictions on technology and trade, the Chinese Ambassador to the U.S. said.

Ambassador Xie Feng criticised U.S. curbs on the sale of microchips and chip-making equipment to China that were imposed last year by the Biden administration. Beijing has described the measure as part of an effort to "contain" China.

"China does not shy away from competition, but the definition of competition by the U.S. side I think is not fair," Mr. Xie said on Wednesday at the Aspen Security Forum, a security conference in Aspen, Colorado. "The United States is trying to win by keeping China out," he said, referring to measures to curb U.S. technology sales to Huawei.

Xie Feng

Wagner, Belarusian military train together

Associated Press
MOSCOW

Mercenaries from Russia's military company Wagner on Thursday launched joint drills with the Belarusian military near the border with Poland following their relocation to Belarus after their short-lived rebellion, a move that prompted Warsaw to redeploy its troops.

The Belarusian Defence Ministry said that the week-long manoeuvres will be conducted at a firing range near the border city of Brest and will involve Belarusian Special Forces. The ministry added that Wagner's combat experience will help modernise the Belarusian military.

A video released on Wednesday appeared to show Wagner's chief Yevgeny Prigozhin for the first time since he led last month's rebellion. In the video, Mr. Prigozhin was seen telling his troops they would spend some time in Belarus training its military to help "make the Belarusian Army the second strongest Army in the world" before deploying to Africa.

In addition to their involvement in Ukraine, Wagner mercenaries have been sent to Syria and several African countries since the private Army was created in 2014.

Xi hails 'old friend' Kissinger in Beijing meeting, talks of contributions to China

Agence France-Presse
BEIJING

Chinese leader Xi Jinping hailed former U.S. secretary of state Henry Kissinger as an "old friend" as the two met in Beijing on Thursday.

Mr. Kissinger's visit to China this week has seen him call for a rapprochement between Washington and Beijing, which remain at loggerheads over a range of issues, from human rights to trade and national security. The 100-year-old diplomat was central to the U.S. establishing ties with communist China in the 1970s and has maintained close contact with the country's leaders over the years.

Xi Jinping with Henry Kissinger, left, in Beijing on Thursday. AFP

"Chinese people value friendship, and we will never forget our old friend and your historic contribution to promoting the development of China-U.S. relations," President Xi told Mr. Kissinger on Thursday, according to state media.

Mr. Kissinger, in response, thanked Mr. Xi for hosting him at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse's building number five – where he met with then premier Zhou Enlai in 1971.

THE HINDU GROUP

A SPECIAL PUBLICATION FROM
THE HINDU GROUP

The coffee-table book features articles by well-known writers on Hindu religion and philosophy on subjects such as Srinivasa Kalyanam, Sri Ramanuja and his association with Tirumala, the story of Ananthalwan, Krishnadeva Raya's Amuktha Malyada, the beauty of Sri Lakshmi Sahasram and on the importance of Vaikunta Ekadasi. The collector's edition also features rare pictures of Lord Venkateswara, Sri Padmavathi and Tirumala.

BOOK YOUR COPY ONLINE
Visit: publications.thehindugroup.com/bookstore/
For bulk booking, e-mail: bookstore@thehindu.co.in
For any enquiries call: 1800 102 1878

A BG-BGE

INBRIEF

Tata Motors introduces two variants of Altroz

Tata Motors Ltd. has announced the introduction of two new variants of the Altroz - XM and XM(S) - priced at ₹6.90 lakh and ₹7.35 lakh, respectively (ex-showroom, Delhi). "The introduction of high-end features in these variants, including the electric sunroof in XM(S), makes Altroz the most affordable premium hatchback to be offered with a sunroof," the company said. These variants will be available only in the 1.2 L Revotron petrol engine with manual transmission.

BPM solutions provider WNS's Q1 net profit falls to $30.1 mn

WNS (Holdings), a provider of global business process management (BPM) solutions, reported first-quarter net profit declined to $30.1 million from $33.1 million in the year-earlier period. "Year-over-year profit decreased as a result of wage increases, increased return-to-office costs, higher share-based compensation expense, and increased costs associated with our acquisitions including amortisation of intangibles, and other acquisition-related expenses," the company said.

'IDFC Bank looks to raise ₹20 billion in fiscal 2024'

IDFC First Bank is looking to raise ₹20 billion ($243.84 million) in equity capital in the second half of the current financial year, a source familiar with the matter said. The fund raise follows a reverse merger between parent IDFC Ltd. and IDFC First Bank announced earlier this month. IDFC First Bank has board approval to raise ₹40 billion. It has already raised close to half that amount through a preferential allotment to IDFC Ltd. REUTERS

'Slowing down' at clients spurs Infosys to cut FY24 guidance

IT major pares full-year revenue growth to 1-3.5%, reports 11% rise in Q1 net profit to ₹5,945 crore; company says it has 'no hiring plans for FY24

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

IT major Infosys Ltd. on Thursday cut its full-year revenue growth guidance citing a distinct "stopping or slowing down" in some verticals, after reporting first-quarter net profit rose 10.9% year-on-year to ₹5,945 crore.

The technology services provider pared its FY24 revenue growth forecast by at least 300 basis points to 1-3.5%, from 4-7% projected earlier amid an increasingly challenging demand environment, which saw its first-quarter revenue in constant currency terms grow by just 1% on a sequential basis. Infosys, however, retained its operating margin guidance for the full year at 20-22%.

Revenue in rupee terms increased 10% in the April-June quarter to ₹37,933 crore, from ₹34,470 crore in the year-earlier period. Revenue, in dollar terms, inched up to $4.61 billion.

The company said it had bagged large deals worth $2.3 billion (56% of them were net new) in Q1, as against a total contract value of $2.1 in the previous quarter. Infosys added it had won two mega deals worth $2 billion just after the closure of the quarter.

Outlook turns cloudy

Infosys pares FY24 revenue growth guidance by at least 300 basis points citing stopping or slowing down in some verticals

- Decision-making cycles are getting longer, says CEO and MD Salil Parekh
- Financial services, investment banking, high-tech, telecom among the verticals hit
- Total headcount shrank by 6,940 in Q1 to 3,36,294; attrition eased to 17.3%

"Even as we won two mega deals recently, and also we have a strong pipeline, revenue from these is expected towards the later part of the fiscal," CEO Salil Parekh said at a post-earnings briefing. "Keeping this in mind, we are changing our revenue growth guidance," he added.

'Seeing some stopping'

Some business verticals were witnessing a loss in momentum, Mr. Parekh observed. "In the short term, we are seeing some stopping or slowing down of transformational programmes. Decision-making cycles are getting longer," he said.

This was especially so in financial services, asset management, investment banking, payments, mortgages, high-tech, telecom and in parts of retail, according to the Infosys CEO. On the other hand, manufacturing and life sciences were the verticals that remained bullish and had helped deliver double-digit revenue growth for the company.

Mr. Parekh said the company's generative AI capabilities were expanding well, with 80 active client projects now, as the comprehensive AI platform, Topaz, had resonated well with clients' requirements.

During the quarter, Infosys's total headcount shrank by 6,940 to 3,36,294, indicating a tepid hiring trend. It reported attrition at 17.3%, compared with 20.9% in the previous quarter. The IT major said it didn't have a hiring target for FY24 and hiring would depend on how the rest of the year would play out in terms of the overall demand scene.

RIL's financial unit valued at over $20 bn following demerger

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

JFSL, the demerged financial services unit of Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL), was valued at more than $20 billion, ahead of Adani group firms, Coal India and Indian Oil.

Jio Financial Services Ltd. (JFSL) stock was priced at ₹261.85 based on the difference between Reliance's stock price at Wednesday's close of ₹2,841.85 and ₹2,580, its price at the end of an hour-long special pre-market session. RIL, India's most valuable company, will now trade on exchanges without its financial services unit.

At ₹261.85 apiece, the entire share capital of JFSL will be valued at ₹1,66,000 crore or over $20 billion.

This valuation will peg JFSL as India's 32nd most valuable company by market capitalisation ahead of the likes of Adani Ports, Adani Green, Tata Steel, Coal India, HDFC Life, IOC, and Bajaj Auto.

JFSL shares will become available for trading in stock exchanges in the near future. The price arrived at for JFSL is higher than analysts' estimates of ₹160 to ₹190.

Shareholders will get one JFSL share for each Reliance share they hold.

Reliance is the largest private player in the refining, petrochemicals, E&P, digital and organised retail sectors in India.

Its consumer business (Jio and Retail), which has scaled up over the last 4-5 years, is estimated to contribute half of total EBITDA by FY25, thereby replacing the oil-to-chemicals business, which dominates EBITDA contribution.

Reliance aims to progressively transition to green hydrogen from grey hydrogen by 2025. It plans to launch an FMCG business in its retail division to develop and deliver.

'Fifth-largest financier'

The spinoff, which will create the fifth-largest financier in terms of capital and compete directly with the likes of Paytm and Bajaj Finance, will complement Reliance's consumer businesses, which include India's largest wireless operator with about 428 million users, a top retail chain with over 17,000 stores.

According to BofA Securities, by separating financial services from the core business, RIL appears to be keeping arm's length from other entities, and in theory helping them to attract strategic or JV partners who are keen only in the financial services arm – like what they did with Reliance Jio or tower InvIT.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	THURSDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	67,572	0.71
US Dollar	81.93	0.18
Gold	60,800	0.16
Brent oil	79.50	-1.34

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2419.75	-4.00
Adani Ports	732.45	1.05
Apollo Hosp	5195.45	19.85
Asian Paints	3526.00	11.35
Axis Bank	977.90	13.60
Bajaj Auto	4868.70	45.05
Bajaj Finserv	1635.80	-8.30
Bajaj Finance	7596.60	11.90
Bharti Airtel	884.85	14.10
BPCL	387.95	3.40
Britannia Ind	5052.55	-13.35
Cipla	1056.55	20.75
Coal India	229.75	1.15
Divis Lab	3666.55	28.50
Dr Reddys Lab	5339.30	117.95
Eicher Motors	3317.10	-13.05
Grasim Ind	1819.45	35.25
HCL Tech	1155.80	-13.25
HDFC Bank	1688.75	3.65
HDFC Life	661.05	2.00
Hero MotoCorp	3087.15	-9.50
Hindalco	441.55	2.35
Hind Unilever	2703.25	31.65
ICICI Bank	995.60	22.15
IndusInd Bank	1425.15	5.60
Infosys	1449.50	-25.45
ITC	492.15	13.30
JSW Steel	799.05	7.15
Kotak Bank	1956.90	50.30
L&T	2489.70	-4.45
LTIMindtree Ltd.	4985.05	-5.45
M&M	1545.35	0.90
Maruti Suzuki	9772.50	164.95
NestleIndia	23007.95	67.00
NTPC	192.90	0.35
ONGC	167.20	0.45
PowerGrid Corp	244.25	1.00
Reliance Ind	2619.85	-222.00
SBI Life	1314.05	3.60
State Bank	610.05	8.60
Sun Pharma	1097.65	15.80
TataConsumerProduct	873.10	12.65
Tata Motors	621.65	1.05
Tata Steel	116.95	0.25
TCS	3463.30	-6.75
Tech Mahindra	1252.95	8.25
Titan	2989.30	-6.35
UltraTech Cement	8224.15	-105.05
UPL	639.40	0.25
Wipro	417.65	-0.30

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on July 20

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	81.79	82.11
Euro	91.68	92.05
British Pound	105.59	106.01
Japanese Yen (100)	58.67	58.90
Chinese Yuan	11.41	11.45
Swiss Franc	95.31	95.69
Singapore Dollar	61.85	62.10
Canadian Dollar	62.33	62.57
Malaysian Ringitt	17.99	18.07
Australian Dollar	55.92	56.14

Source:Indian Bank

Hindustan Unilever Q1 net rises 8% to ₹2,472 cr. on sales

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

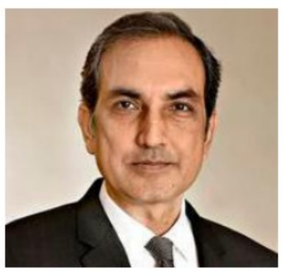
Hindustan Unilever Ltd. (HUL) reported first-quarter standalone net profit rose 8% year-on-year to ₹2,472 crore on underlying sales growth of 7% and underlying volume growth (UVG) of 3%.

Sales revenue increased 6.52% to ₹14,931 crore.

"FMCG markets are recovering gradually although the operating environment remains challenging," CEO and MD Rohit Jawa said.

EBITDA margin rises

"In this context, we have delivered a resilient and competitive performance whilst stepping up our EBITDA margin."


Rohit Jawa

He said in the near-term, the FMCG industry would continue to witness rebalancing of price-volume growth equation and a gradual recovery in consumer demand. "In this environment, we will continue to provide superior value to consumers and invest behind our brands.

"We remain focused on driving our long-term strategic priorities, including market development and building distinctive capabilities for the future.

"I am confident of the medium to long-term prospects of the Indian FMCG sector and HUL's ability to deliver a profitable and responsible growth."

Mr. Jawa, who took over as CEO recently, said he would continue to execute the existing winning strategies and respond to the evolving market challenges.

During Q1, HUL's Home Care business delivered 10% revenue growth and mid-single digit UVG. Beauty & Personal Care saw 4% revenue growth with mid-single digit UVG while Foods and Refreshment witnessed 5% revenue growth with near-flat UVG.

U.S. indicator points to recession starting soon

Reuters

An index designed to track turns in U.S. business cycles fell for the 15th straight month in June, dragged down by a weakening consumer outlook and increased unemployment claims, marking the longest streak of decreases since the lead-up to the 2007-2009 recession.

The Conference Board on Thursday said its Leading Economic Index declined by 0.7% in June to 106.1 following a revised decrease of 0.6% in May.

The Conference Board reiterated its forecast that the U.S. economy is likely to be in recession from the current Q3 to Q1 of 2024.

DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION
6th Floor, 2nd Gate, M.S. Building, Ambedkar Veedhi, Bangalore-560 001
No:ED/32/USV/2023(P-1) Date: 14.07.2023
Selection of Vice-Chancellor of Kuvempu University, Shimogga
Invitation of Application for the Post of Vice-Chancellor, Kuvempu University, Shimogga as per Section 14(2) of Karnataka State Universities Act,2000.
The Higher Education Department, Government of Karnataka invites Application for the Post of Vice-Chancellor, Kuvempu University, Shimogga. The Application should be submitted within Twenty days (20) from the date of publication of this notification. The detailed application form and further details are available on Higher Education Department website **https://hed.kamataka. gov.in**
Sd/- Deputy Secretary (Universities & Co-ordination)
DIPR/CP/JA/612/2023-24

DEPARTMENT OF HIGHER EDUCATION
6th Floor, 2nd Gate, M.S. Building, Ambedkar Veedhi, Bangalore-560 001
No:ED/12/URE/2023(P-1) Date: 14.07.2023
Selection of Vice-Chancellor of Vijayanagara Sri Krishnadevaraya University, Ballari
Invitation of Application for the Post of Vice-Chancellor, Vijayanagara Sri Krishnadevaraya University, Ballari as per Section 14(2) of Karnataka State Universities Act, 2000.
The Higher Education Department, Government of Karnataka invites the Application for the Post of Vice-Chancellor, Vijayanagara Sri Krishnadevaraya University, Ballari. The Application should be submitted within Twenty days (20) from the date of publication of this notification. The detailed application form and further details are available on Higher Education Department website **https://hed.kamataka.gov.in**
Sd/- Deputy Secretary (Universities & Co-ordination)
DIPR/CP/JA/611/2023-24

CENTRAL MINE PLANNING & DESIGN INSTITUTE LIMITED
(A Subsidiary of Coal India Limited)
Gondwana Place, Kanke Road, Ranchi-834031, Jharkhand, India
NOTICE
"All the tenders issued by CIL and its Subsidiaries for procurement of Goods, Works and Services are available on websites of Coal India Ltd. **www.coalindia.in** / respective Subsidiary Company (CMPDI, **www.cmpdi.co.in**), CIL e-procurement portal **https://coalindiatenders.nic.in** and Central Public Procurement Portal **https://eprocure.gov.in.** In addition, procurement is also done through GeM Portal **https://gem.gov.in**"

URBAN IMPROVEMENT TRUST SIKAR
Near Circuit House, Jaipur Road, Sikar 332001
ई–मेल uit.sikar@rajasthan.gov.in, फोन नं. 01572–245057
क्रमांक:– न.वि.न्या. / विकास / 2023–24 / 69 दिनांक 07.07.2023
Notice Inviting Bid:- 08/2023-24
Bids for Civil works are invited form interested bidders. Other Particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (**https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in**) of the state. The approximate value of all three procurement in Rs 42385079/-
Last Date of Bids submission as below

For Work No 2 and 3	upto 27.07.2023(time) 06.00 P.M.
For Work No 1	upto 03.08.2023 (time) 06.00 P.M.

NIB Code- UIS2324A0009
UBN Code- UIS2324WS0B00009, UIS2324WS0B00010, UIS2324WS0B00011
Raj.Samwad/C/23/6030 EXECUTIVE ENGINEER

WEST BENGAL STATE ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION COMPANY LIMITED
(A Government of West Bengal Enterprise)
Registered Office: Vidyut Bhavan, Block-DJ, Sector-II, Bidhannagar, Kolkata-700 091
CIN: U40101WB2007SGC113474 • web: www.wbsetcl.in
THE CHIEF ENGINEER (PROCUREMENT) INVITES E-TENDER FOR THE FOLLOWING WORKS:-

NIT No.: CE(P)/WBSETCL/ 12 KV VCB Switchgear/23-24/14 Date: 21.07.2023	Procurement of SCADA compatible 12 kV VCB Switchgear Panels (2nd Call). Bids shall be submitted (online) up to 04:00 P.M., 16.08.2023.	Bid documents can be downloaded from 21.07.2023, 11:00 A.M. Visit the following websites:- www.wbtenders.gov.in, https://etender.wb.nic.in, www.wbsetcl.in for details.
NIT No.: CE(P)/WBSETCL/ 66 & 33kV CB/23-24/15 Date: 21.07.2023	Procurement of Circuit Breakers. Bids shall be submitted (online) up to 04:00 P.M., 09.08.2023.	

ICA: T-13946(3)/2023

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice
Tender No : E-Tender No 91,93,94,95,96/2023-24/SE/PHC/CHN JJM - NELLIKUZHY PANCHAYATH - Well cum Pump house, WTP & Row water pumping main-Pipeline Work 2) WSS to Aikkaranadu, - Designing, Constructing and Commissioning of 9m Dia well cum Pump House, 17 MLD WTP, 8 LL sump and 13 LL OHSR at Peringole 3) CWSS to Puthencruz - 17 MLD WTP 4) WSS to Vengola Construction of 28 MLD WTP at Kanjirakkadu 5) WSS to Sreemoolanagaram - Construction of Raw Water Well cum Pump House at Chowara, Erection of Pump sets, Construction of 20 MLD WTP , Erection of transformer and allied works. **EMD :** Rs. 1) Rs. 5,00,000/ each, **Tender fee :** Rs. 19518/-, each, **Last Date for submitting Tender :** 07-08-2023 03:00:pm, **Phone :** 0484-2360645, **Website : www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in**
Superintending Engineer
KWA-JB-GL-6-788-2023-24 PH Circle, Kochi

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice
Tender No : WRD/KWA-CE(SR)/TR/13162/2022_5_2_1/1,**JJM-WSS** to Kidangoor, Kadaplamattom and Marangattupally Panchayaths -Construction of OHSRs, Laying Distribution net work and Providing FHTCs in Marangattupalli Panchayath - General Civil Work, **EMD :** Rs. 5,00,000/-, **Tender fee :** Rs. 16540+(2978)GST, **Last Date for submitting Tender :** 07-08-2023 03:00:pm, **Phone :** 0481 2562745
Website : **www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in**
Superintending Engineer,
KWA-JB-GL-6-774-2023-24 PH Circle, Kottayam

JODHPUR VIDYUT VITARAN NIGAM LIMITED
(MATERIAL MANAGEMENT & CONTRACT WING) NEW POWER HOUSE, INDUSTRIAL AREA, JODHPUR-342003 PHONE: (0291) 2742223, FAX: (0291) 2746539
E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE
E-Procurement Tenders are invited for purchase of LT XLPE Insulated ACSR Rabbit Conductor Under TN-1907 (UBN JVV2324GLOB00304).
Details regarding Quantity, Tender cost, Earnest Money, Schedule date of tender opening for aforesaid tenders are available on our website at **www.energy.rajasthan.gov.in/jdvvnl** and also at **http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in**.
Raj.Samwad/C/23/6032 SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (MM&C)
बिजली संबंधी शिकायतों के लिए टोल फ्री नम्बर 1800 180 6045

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
E-Tender Notice No. M/SG.2023-24-351 to 356 dated 18.07.2023
Sr.Divisional Signal & Telecommunication Engineer/I/Chennai Division acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders for the work:

E-Tender No.	Name of work	Approx. Cash Value (Rs.)	Period of Completion
M/SG.2023-24-351	Zonal Contract for the Signalling & Telecom Portion of work under ADSTE/MAS jurisdiction of Chennai Division for the period of 2 year (2023- 24 & 2024-25).	36.53 Lakhs	2 Years
M/SG.2023-24-352	Zonal Contract for the Signalling & Telecom Portion of work under ADSTE/TBM jurisdiction of Chennai Division for the period of 2 year (2023- 24 & 2024-25).	36.53 Lakhs	2 Years
M/SG.2023-24-353	Zonal Contract for the Signalling & Telecom Portion of work under ADSTE/AJJ jurisdiction of Chennai Division for the period of 2 year (2023- 24 & 2024-25).	36.53 Lakhs	2 Years
M/SG.2023-24-354	Zonal Contract for the Signalling & Telecom Portion of work under ADSTE/KPD jurisdiction of Chennai Division for the period of 2 year (2023- 24 & 2024-25).	36.53 Lakhs	2 Years
M/SG.2023-24-355	Zonal Contract for the Signalling & Telecom Portion of work under ADSTE/SPE jurisdiction of Chennai Division for the period of 2 year (2023- 24 & 2024-25).	36.53 Lakhs	2 Years
M/SG.2023-24-356	Zonal Contract for the Signalling & Telecom Portion of work under ADSTE/MS jurisdiction of Chennai Division for the period of 2 year (2023-24 & 2024-25).	36.53 Lakhs	2 Years

The complete details of the tender can be downloaded from the e-tender portal **https://www.ireps.gov.in.**
Follow us on : twitter.com/GMSRailways

Adani to continue using ACC, Ambuja cement brands

Reuters
MUMBAI

Adani Group will continue to use its ACC and Ambuja cement brands to sell cement products and has no plans to merge the two entities, Ajay Kapur, chief executive officer of both cement companies, said at an annual shareholder meeting.

The group became India's second-largest cement producer in 2022, behind UltraTech Cement, with its $10.5 billion acquisition of both Ambuja Cements and ACC from Switzerland's Holcim.

Media reports had said earlier this year that the Adani Group was exploring a merger between the two companies.

"No disruption is expected in the usage of these legacy brands," added Kapur.

Shares of the two companies were, however, still trading lower than their January levels after a U.S. short-seller report battered shares of Adani group companies.

Rayala has excelled in all its forays: MD Pratap

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Rayala Corporation has excelled in whatever business it has forayed into, MD Ranjit Pratap said.

"The Rayala story is a saga from automobile assembling to organic farming," he said at an event to mark the group's diamond jubilee on Thursday.

Rayala Corporation was founded in 1948 as an auto parts and office equipment products company.

Diversification journey

Under Mr. Pratap's leadership, the group had diversified into sectors such as arms and ammunition, real estate, organic farming and food processing.

"I am proud the Rayala group has left an indelible mark on the business environment over the decades. Our contribution can be seen in various iconic landmark structures that dot the Chennai skyline."

Mr. Pratap, who celebrates 50 years in business, also released a book titled: "As the wheel turns," chronicling his triumphs and challenges in the corporate world.

Former Vice President M. Venkaiah Naidu lauded the group's journey.

ARMY WELFARE EDUCATION SOCIETY
ONLINE SCREENING TEST (OST) FOR TEACHERS FOR ARMY PUBLIC SCHOOLS (APS) : SEP-OCT 2023
ON-LINE SCREENING TEST for selection of teachers in **PRT, TGT & PGT** categories will be held as per details below:-
Registration of Candidates : 21 JUL 2023 to 10 SEP 2023
Admit Card Download : 20 SEP 2023 ONWARDS
Date of Exam : 30 SEP & 01 OCT 2023
For details of qualifications, registration and conduct, please log on to **website : www.awesindia.com**

ICON

Kohli is a real inspiration for so many players, says Dravid

India head coach Rahul Dravid hailed Virat Kohli as an inspiration for many cricketers, reflecting on the legacy of the superstar batter who is set for his landmark 500th international match here. "He is a real inspiration to so many players within this team without a doubt and to so many people, boys and girls back home in India."

WINNING START

Imam's unbeaten 50 guides Pakistan home against Sri Lanka

Imam-ul-Haq stood unbeaten on 50 as Pakistan beat Sri Lanka by four wickets on the final day of the opening Test in Galle on Thursday. **The scores**: Sri Lanka 312 & 279 (D. de Silva 82, N. Ali 3/75, Abrar 3/68) lost to Pakistan 461 & 133/6 in 32.5 overs (Imam-ul-Haq 50 n.o., Jayasuriya 4/56).

RECLAIMING 99

India breaks into top-100 in FIFA ranking for first time since 2018

The Indian men's football team on Thursday achieved sub-100 FIFA ranking for the first time since 2018 as it moved up one spot to 99th after its SAFF Championship triumph. India had beaten strong teams Lebanon and Kuwait on penalty shoot-out in the semifinal and final respectively in the SAFF Championships earlier this month.

DANISH DELIGHT

Asgreen wins Tour de France stage 18, Vingegaard retains overall lead

Kasper Asgreen won stage 18 of the Tour de France on Thursday as a long range escape edged a fast-closing peloton to the line at Bourg-en-Bresse. As the Tour returned to flat terrain, a four man group crossed the line just ahead of elite sprinters, while Jonas Vingegaard retained his 7min 35sec lead in the overall standings.

Indians lose their way after yet another Rohit-Jaiswal show

The openers add 139 following their 229-run association in the opening Test; the skipper scores 80 and the young southpaw 57; Gill, Rahane fall cheaply; Mukesh makes his debut while Kohli features in his 500th international match

INDIA IN WEST INDIES

Agence France-Presse
PORT OF SPAIN

India slumped to 182 for four at tea on the opening day of the second Test against West Indies here on Thursday.

After skipper Rohit Sharma and newcomer Yashasvi Jaiswal powered India to 121 without loss at lunch, the visitors lost four wickets in the second session for the addition of 61 runs.

Jaiswal was the first to go, dismissed for 57 by Jason Holder. No. 3 Gill didn't last long, falling to Kemar Roach for 10.

Meanwhile, Rohit motored along to 80 before he was bowled by left-arm spinner Jomel Warrican playing down the wrong line.

At the stroke of tea, new man Ajinkya Rahane (8) saw his stumps go cartwheeling off the bowling of Shannon Gabriel, who had missed the opening Test. Virat Kohli was unbeaten on 18.

There was no hint that things would unfold the way they did when Rohit and Jaiswal, who had put on 229 in Dominica as the Indians registered an innings and 141-run win in three days in the first game, toyed with a mediocre attack in the first session.

West Indies made two changes to its team with Gabriel playing on his home ground at the expense of off-spinner Rahkeem Cornwall while Kirk McKenzie replaced Raymon Reifer in the middle-order.

India handed a debut to medium-pacer Mukesh Kumar in place of Shardul Thakur.

Contrasting fortunes: While Rohit was at his roaring best, Rahane was prised out early. AFP

This is the 100th Test match between the West Indies and India.

Former captain Kohli also reached a memorable milestone with this fixture, his 111th Test, which is his 500th international match overall for India, having also appeared in 274 ODIs and 115 T20Is.

SCOREBOARD

INDIA — 1ST INNINGS

Yashasvi Jaiswal c McKenzie b Holder 57 *(74b, 9x4, 1x6)*, Rohit Sharma b Warrican 80 *(143b, 9x4, 2x6)*, Shubman Gill c Joshua b Roach 10 *(12b, 2x4)*, Virat Kohli (batting) 18 *(44b, 2x4)*, Ajinkya Rahane b Gabriel 8 *(36b)*; Extras (lb-4, nb-5): 9; Total (for four wkts. in 50.4 overs **at tea**): 182.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-139 (Jaiswal, 31.4 overs), 2-153 (Gill, 35.4), 3-155 (Rohit, 38.5), 4-182 (Rahane, 50.4).

WEST INDIES BOWLING

Roach 10-1-41-1, Joseph 10-0-43-0, Gabriel 9.4-0-46-1, Warrican 12-2-26-1, Holder 9-2-22-1.

Toss: West Indies.

Crawley's rapid century powers England's reply

THE ASHES

Associated Press
MANCHESTER

Zak Crawley's quickfire 189, his maiden Ashes hundred, fuelled a dramatic England run spree on Thursday's second day of the fourth Test at Old Trafford. England was 384 for four at stumps in reply to Australia's first innings 317, a lead of 67.

Crawley and Joe Root, who scored 84, shared a partnership of 206 in just 29 overs. That stand came after Crawley and No. 3 Moeen Ali (54) had put on 121 for the second wicket.

Harry Brook was unbeaten on 14 at close, with England captain Ben Stokes batting on 24.

There was little hint of the rush of runs to come as England reached lunch at 61 for one in 16 overs after the early loss of Ben Duckett. Yet, at tea, it was 239 for two, having scored 178 in just 25 overs during the second session.

Crawley became the sixth England batter to score more than a hundred runs in a session in an Ashes Test as he progressed from 26 to 132. The runs kept coming after tea as the opener extended his fourth hundred in 38 Tests to beyond 150 with two superb straight-driven boundaries off successive deliveries from Australia captain Pat Cummins.

Crawley, in sight of a second Test double century after his 267 against Pakistan at Southampton three years ago, chopped on to the stumps off all-rounder Cameron Green. It was the end of a remarkable innings from the 25-year-old who scored at more than a run-a-ball, facing 182 deliveries for his 189 and hitting 21 fours and three sixes.

The big push: Crawley scored at more than run-a-ball, making 189 off just 182 deliveries. GETTY IMAGES

England's 336 for three soon became 351 for four when Root was bowled for 84 by a Josh Hazlewood ball that kept terribly low – a worrying sight for Australia, bidding for a first Ashes series win in England since 2001. In contrast, Stokes was hit on the helmet by a Hazlewood delivery that reared off a length.

Australia's woes were compounded when Mitchell Starc left the field after landing heavily on his left shoulder while making a diving stop at mid-on.

Earlier in the day, Australia was bowled out for 317. Chris Woakes finished with five for 62 – his first five-wicket Ashes haul.

SCOREBOARD

Australia — 1st innings: David Warner c Bairstow b Woakes 32, Usman Khawaja lbw b Broad 3, Marnus Labuschagne lbw b Moeen 51, Steve Smith lbw b Wood 41, Travis Head c Root b Broad 48, Mitchell Marsh c Bairstow b Woakes 51, Cameron Green lbw b Woakes 16, Alex Carey c Bairstow b Woakes 20, Mitchell Starc (not out) 36, Pat Cummins c Stokes b Anderson 1, Josh Hazlewood c Duckett b Woakes 4; Extras (b-8, lb-3, nb-3): 14; Total (in 90.2 overs): 317.

Fall of wickets: 1-15, 2-61, 3-120, 4-183, 5-189, 6-254, 7-255, 8-294, 9-299.

England bowling: Broad 14-0-68-2, Anderson 20-4-51-1, Woakes 22.2-4-62-5, Wood 17-5-60-1, Moeen 17-1-65-1.

England — 1st innings: Zak Crawley b Green 189, Ben Duckett c Carey b Starc 1, Moeen Ali c Khawaja b Starc 54, Joe Root b Hazlewood 84, Harry Brook (batting) 14, Ben Stokes (batting) 24; Extras (lb-7, nb-11): 18; Total (for four wkts. in 72 overs): 384.

Fall of wickets: 1-9, 2-130, 3-336, 4-351.

Australia bowling: Starc 15-0-74-2, Hazlewood 15-2-62-1, Cummins 16-0-93-0, Green 10-1-40-1, Head 6-0-48-0, Marsh 9-0-57-0, Labuschagne 1-0-3-0.

'I never demanded exemption from trials'

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Sakshi Malik on Thursday said she never demanded any exemption from Asian Games trials despite the IOA ad-hoc panel offering to consider her case just like Vinesh Phogat and Bajrang Punia.

She alleged that the move to exempt Vinesh and Bajrang from trials was an attempt by the government to "break the unity of the wrestlers".

"We requested the government to hold our trials after August 10, and it gave us time. But over the last few days, it has emerged that direct entries are being sent for two weights. I was told my name would be considered.

"But I refused. I do not want to go without trials. Neither have I gone (to tournaments) without any trials nor I want to now."

Lanky amateur Lamprecht takes The Open by storm

GOLF

Reuters
HOYLAKE

Emiliano Grillo rolled in a birdie putt from 51 feet at No. 18 to take a share of the lead at the British Open on Thursday. It was a three-way tie for the top spot between Grillo, Tommy Fleetwood and Christo Lamprecht, the South African amateur stealing the show on the opening day.

Lamprecht grew up idolising Louis Oosthuizen, the 2010 Open champion, and is a product of Oosthuizen's golf academy before moving on to continue his education on and off the course at Georgia Tech in the United States.

But a promising junior career was nearly knocked off course by a growth spurt, which is evident in Lamprecht's 6 feet 8 inch (2.03 metres) frame.

"I started out very competitively, and golf-wise I was a little bit better than everyone at 14, 15 years old and then I kind of hit the growth spurt and everything golf-wise was everywhere. I didn't know what was going on. I was changing clubs every six months," said Lamprecht.

The 22-year-old used his long limbs to his advantage with booming distances off the tee on Thursday.

"Louis was, by far, my favourite. I've known him personally and watched him play... it's pretty amazing. I don't think I've ever beaten him. I've played with him four or five times, nothing more. A couple of practice rounds and pro events that I got into as a kid. I guess beating him today was really nice."

Oosthuizen had a day to forget as he ended three over par after his first round. But he could take solace in seeing the fruits of the work in his academy blossom. "For us, it's great because it shows us we're doing the right things," said Oosthuizen.

Causing a flutter: Lamprecht was the talking point on day one.

Smashers tame the Lions in an exciting South Indian Derby

UTT

Amol Karhadkar
PUNE

It was the first-ever South Indian Derby in Ultimate Table Tennis, and that too with a touch of local flavour. The home support for Bengaluru Smashers, which has a Pune-based owner, helped the UTT debutant stun defending champion Chennai Lions and register its maiden victory.

With captain Manika Batra and the seasoned Kirill Gerassimenko playing the star act and debutant Jeet Chandra and Natalia Bojor playing the supporting role to perfection, Smashers overcame the Sharath Kamal-led Lions 8-7 at the Shree Shiv Chhatrapati Sports Complex on Thursday.

Gerassimenko, who had eased past Sharath in the opening round of the WTT Star Contender event in Goa in March, faced some resistance from the veteran warhorse this time around. Though the Indian managed to win a solitary game, but his forehands were not powerful enough to breach Gerassimenko's backhand wall.

Manika doubled Smashers' lead, overcoming Sutirtha Mukherjee in a close contest. Manika and Sutirtha were involved in a long-drawn controversy since the lead-up to the Tokyo Olympic and their rivalry was on display in the intense affair.

Eventually, Manika's reigned supreme using a long-pimpled rubber to good effect against Sutirtha who played with soft pimples.

The mixed doubles match, with Yangzi Liu as Sharath's partner, also went in favour of Manika and Gerassimenko by the same margin. Despite trailing 3-6, Lions banked on Benedikt Duda, the World No. 33, to level the tie. The southpaw did just that, against rookie Jeet Chandra. Jeet, who had replaced Sanil Shetty after the latter failed to win a game in two matches earlier in the league, stunned Duda with an array of forehand winners and snatched a game.

Inspired by Jeet's performance, Natalia Bojor sealed the deal for Smashers by winning the first game against favourite Yangzi Liu in the final rubber of the day.

Proving a point: Manika had the final say in her eagerly awaited clash against Sutirtha. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The results: Chennai Lions lost to Bengaluru Smashers 7-8 (A. Sharath Kamal lost to Kirill Gerassimenko 10-11, 11-7, 10-11; Sutirtha Mukherjee lost to Manika Batra 6-11, 11-10, 8-11; Sharath & Yangzi Liu lost to Kirill & Manika 11-6, 9-11, 7-11; Benedikt Duda bt Jeet Chandra 9-11, 11-9, 11-7; Yangzi bt Natalia Bojor 5-11, 11-9, 6-11).

Friday's fixture: Puneri Paltan TT vs Dabang Delhi, 7.30 p.m.

INBRIEF

India claims bronze medal in Asian surfing championship

India scored 2,708 points to secure the bronze medal in the Asian surfing championship in Maldives recently. Japan claimed gold with 4,450 points. D. Srikanth, 18, from Kovalam fishing village near Chennai, was the centre of attention, making it to the men's semifinals. Eighteen countries from Asia took part in the championships. The Surfing Federation of India (SFI) sent a team comprising four senior surfers in the men's category and two surfers in the u-18 category. Arun Vasu, SFI president, said: "This is a big achievement for Indian surfing in a short time." Indian surfers will now get ready for the first-ever world surfing league (WSL) event to be held in Mahabalipuram from August 14 to 20.

India goes down to Germany, ends tour with three defeats

The Indian women's hockey team capped a disappointing outing, going down to Germany 0-2 for its third straight defeat of the tour here on Wednesday. Nike Lorenz (52nd minute) and Charlotte Stapenhorst (54th) scored for the home side in the third and final match of the Indian team's tour of Germany. Indian had lost to China and Germany in its previous two outings.

Sharanya misses final of rifle 3-position event

Sharanya Lakhan shot 585 and missed qualification for the final on lesser number of inner-10s in the 50-metre rifle 3-position event in the Junior World Championship in Changwon, Korea, on Thursday. India stayed second on the medals table with four gold, four silver and three bronze medals.

The results: 50m rifle 3-position: Junior women: 1. Vivien Jaeggi (Sui) 457.3 (591); 2. Arina Altukhova (Kaz) 455.7 (587); 3. Emely Jaeggi (Sui) 445.0 (586); 12. Sharanya Lakhan 585; 33. Nupur Kumrawat 579; 49. Nikita Kundu 574; 65. Mahit Sandhu 566; 67. Khushi 562.

LIVE TELECAST

BWF: Korea Open, Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App. 7.30 a.m.

Men's Emerging Asia Cup: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD), Star Sports 3 & FanCode, 10 a.m.

The Ashes: 4th Test, day 3, Sony Sports Ten 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 3.30 p.m.

UTT: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 7 p.m.

West Indies vs India: 2nd Test, day 2, DD Sports, FanCode & Jio Cinema App, 7.30 p.m.

Diamond League: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 11.30 p.m.

MLC: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 3 a.m. (Saturday).

Historic win for New Zealand in record-breaking opener

Shocks 1995 champ Norway by a solitary goal in front of the biggest crowd in country; co-host Australia makes a nervy start with the same-margin result over Republic of Ireland

WOMEN'S WC

Agence France-Presse
AUCKLAND

Shock result: Hannah Wilkinson, centre, fires in New Zealand's winner against Norway. GETTY IMAGES

Hannah Wilkinson scored the only goal as co-host New Zealand recorded a historic 1-0 victory over Norway in the opening game of the Women's World Cup on Thursday.

It was the country's first-ever win at the World Cup and came in front of more than 42,000 in Auckland, the biggest crowd in New Zealand football history.

The Football Ferns, who are co-hosting the first 32-team Women's World Cup along with Australia, were not overawed by the occasion as they went on to claim a deserved success thanks to Wilkinson's early second-half goal.

New Zealand had not won any of its 15 previous matches across five previous appearances at the tournament and had set ending that dreadful record as its modest objective this time.

The margin of victory on a cold, wet and windy evening would even have been greater had Ria Percival not missed a late penalty.

Qualifying for the knockout stages from Group A may now be a realistic aim, with Switzerland and minnows the Philippines its other opponents.

Later, an Australian side missing injured superstar Sam Kerr made a winning start with a nervy 1-0 victory over debutant Ireland in front of a pulsating 75,000 Sydney crowd.

Stand-in skipper Steph Catley calmly slotted home a penalty in the 52nd minute in the only goal of a full-blooded game that sprung to life in the second half.

It ensured three points in a tough Group B as the Matildas kick-started their mission to get past the quarterfinals for the first time.

The results: Group A: New Zealand 1 (Hannah Wilkinson 48) bt Norway 0.
Group B: Australia 1 (Steph Catley 52-pen) bt Republic of Ireland 0.

India hopes for all-round show to make it to the final

EMERGING CUP

Press Trust of India
COLOMBO

After a dominant show in the league phase, India-A will be the favourite to seal a spot in the final of the Emerging Asia Cup when it faces Bangladesh-A in the semifinal here on Friday.

The most refreshing aspect about India's undefeated run so far in the tournament is that it has found multiple heroes in times of need.

India will be hoping for an encore of that all-round show against a tricky and competitive Bangladesh.

In a keenly anticipated match, India cantered home against Pakistan by eight wickets. In this match, Manav Suthar and Nikin Jose joined B. Sai Sudarshan and Rajvardhan Hangarkekar as the key players.

Hangarkekar grabbed five wickets (five for 42) and Sai Sudarshan (104) slammed a hundred to hog the headlines. Nikin (53)

Sai Sudharsan. TWITTER@BCCI

and left-arm spinner Suthar (three for 36) did the support cast job to perfection.

However, Bangladesh is no pushover. After a defeat against Sri Lanka in the tournament opener, Bangladesh showed presence of mind to beat Oman and Afghanistan to reach the last four stage.

Tanzid Hasan and Mahmudul Hasan spearheaded the team's batting, while pacer Tanzim Sakib led the bowling attack.

The semifinals schedule (Friday): Sri Lanka-A vs Pakistan-A (10 a.m.), India-A vs Bangladesh A (2 p.m.) (IST).

Satwiksairaj-Chirag pair in quarters; Prannoy exits

KOREA OPEN

Press Trust of India
YEOSU

The ace pairing of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty entered the last eight of the Korea Open Super 500 badminton event, as H.S. Prannoy and Priyanshu Rajawat their exit in the second round, here on Thursday.

The third-seeded Indian duo got the better of China's He Ji Ting and Zhou Hao Dong 21-17, 21-15 to set up a quarterfinal against the fifth seeds Takuro Hoki and Yugo Kobayashi of Japan.

Prannoy lost 15-21, 21-19, 18-21 to Lee Cheuk Yiu of Hong Kong.

In another men's singles match, Priyanshu Rajawat gave a spirited fight against top-seeded Kodai Naraoka of Japan before losing 14-21, 21-18, 17-21.

The women's doubles pair of Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand was no match to the second seeded South Korean opponents Na Ha Baek and Hee So Lee, losing 11-21, 4-21.

The results (second round):
Men: Lee Cheuk Yiu (HK) bt H.S. Prannoy 21-15, 19-21, 21-18; Kodai Naraoka (Jpn) bt Priyanshu Rajawat 21-14, 18-21, 21-17.
Doubles: Satwiksairaj Rankireddy & Chirag Shetty bt He Ji Ting & Zhou Hao Dong (Chn) 21-17, 21-15.
Women: Doubles: Na Ha Baek & Hee So Lee (Kor) bt Treesa Jolly & Gayatri Gopichand 21-11, 21-4.
Mixed doubles: Zhe Yan Feng & Ping Dong Huang (Chn) bt Rohan Kapoor & Sikki Reddy 21-15, 21-12.

Ad-hoc panel directed to explain reasons for exempting Vinesh and Bajrang from trials

WRESTLING

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Thursday asked the ad-hoc panel running the affairs of the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) to explain the reasons for exempting top wrestlers Vinesh Phogat and Bajrang Punia from the Asian Games trials.

Justice Subramonium Prasad gave the order on a petition by Under-20 World Champion Antim Panghal and Under-23 Asian Champion Sujeet Kalkal against the direct entry granted to Vinesh and Bajrang.

Vinesh (53kg) and Bajrang (65kg) were given direct entry for the Asian Games by the Indian Olympic Association's ad-hoc committee on Tuesday, while other wrestlers will have to earn their places in the Indian squad through selection trials on July 22 and 23.

Both were at the forefront of the wrestlers' protest demanding the arrest of outgoing WFI chief Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh for the alleged sexual harassment of seven women grapplers.

"If it (basis for selection) is just, fair and reasonable, it is the end of the matter," the high court said while listing the matter for further hearing on Friday. It also asked for the laurels won by the two athletes, who have been selected automatically, to be shown to it.

During the hearing, Justice Prasad queried the ad-hoc WFI panel as to what was the basis for the selection besides Vinesh and Bajrang being good sportspersons.

"The petitioners do not doubt the merit of the two wrestlers whom you have selected to represent the country...but what they are saying is that past performance alone can't be the basis of selection," the high court observed.

"What is the basis for selecting people other than the fact that they are good sportsmen, have you done any kind of a selection process?" the judge asked.

Additional Solicitor General Chetan Sharma, appearing for the Centre, said the selection policy itself provides for an exemption to certain category of players.

According to WFI guidelines, the selection trials in all weight categories are mandatory. However, the selection committee will have the discretion to select the iconic players like medallists of Olympic/World Championship without trial provided it has been recommended by the Chief Coach/Foreign Expert.

The counsel for Panghal and Kalkal claimed there are no foreign experts and the decision to exempt Bajrang and Vinesh has been taken without any recommendations from the chief coaches.

They demanded that the directive issued by the IOA ad-hoc committee with regard to the two categories (men's freestyle 65kg and women's 53kg) be quashed and the exemption granted to Vinesh and Bajrang be set aside.

The plea said while Panghal and Kalkal have "been working really hard to clinch their position", Vinesh and Bajrang have not participated in any competition this year and were also not part of the national camp.

Bopanna pleased at making the Wimbledon doubles semifinals

Kamesh Srinivasan
NEW DELHI

Good chemistry: Bopanna and Ebden worked their way through tricky situations in the earlier rounds at Wimbledon. GETTY IMAGES

Rohan Bopanna is happy to be back home after making the Wimbledon doubles semifinals with Matthew Ebden, after having skipped the event last year.

"We won some close matches. We could have easily got out in the first round. We were match points down. It was battle after battle. When you play with a regular partner, you are able to find a way to come through such matches. It was fantastic to be playing the semifinals in Wimbledon. The last time was in 2015," said the 43-year-old Bopanna, who has risen to be No. 7 in the world. "At last, I got to play with one partner for six months after a long time. The last time was 2015," said Bopanna.

He was happy that the doubles matches were reduced to best-of-three sets at Wimbledon. "In the semifinal, we had small chances. They were the better team on the big points. Wesley Koolhof was serving very accurate and came up with the shots.

"I think we had used up all our luck in the early rounds. Of course, in the quarterfinals, we came back from being a set down. It was pretty windy this year," recalled Bopanna, about the loss to the top seeds.

Losing the mixed doubles first round, despite playing with Gabriela Dabrowski, with whom he had won the French Open in 2017, Bopanna pointed out that the opponents, Ivan Dodig and Latisha Chan, were also Grand Slam champions.

"In a way, it was a blessing in disguise. I got to focus better on doubles," said Bopanna.

Bopanna will return to the circuit with the Toronto Masters, and then go through a series of events, including the Davis Cup tie in Lucknow and the Asian Games in Hangzhou.

Bopanna and Ebden are ranked No.3 in the race for the year-end championship to be staged in Turin in November.

"Our chances are good and we are pretty well placed", said Bopanna, looking forward to more exciting times on the Tour.

Horse racing — TAI's plea to reconsider 28% GST to be imposed on full face value of bets

Vinayak M. Zodge
PUNE

The Turf Authorities Of India (TAI) has expressed its disappointment at the decision taken by the GST council, at its meeting held on July 11, to impose a GST of 28% on the full face value of the bets placed in horse racing.

Mentioning that horse racing is a sport recognised internationally, and even in India for over 200 years, TAI has put forward a plea to the council to reconsider its decision by highlighting certain issues, namely:

1. Turnover has dropped by nearly from about ₹17,000 crore to approx. ₹6,400 crore during the post GST period, as compared to the period prior to introduction of GST.

2. Patronage for horse racing has dwindled with returns reducing by nearly 50% in the level of dividends, to racing patrons as compared to the pre-GST period.

3. Revenues to the clubs have dropped resulting in increased overhead cost and consequential displacement of labour.

4. Mushrooming of grey channels of betting, to the detriment of the government and clubs, have eroded the very foundation of racing with tremendous loss of revenue as well.

5. The sustenance of the agro-veterinary industry, generating ₹300 crore per annum and the breeding industry worth about ₹500 crore per annum, is at stake in the absence of investment in the sport, following reduced returns to the race horse owners.

6. Employment to about 2 lakh workers, both direct and indirect and mainly rural-based is in danger and specialists like trainers, jockeys, etc. cannot be absorbed elsewhere.

"We conclude with a fond hope that the matter will be reviewed most appropriately, to support an agricultural base industry, as otherwise, the closure of the entire racing industry in the country is imminent and unemployment on a massive scale is unavoidable at all the seven racing centres in the country and about 40 breeding establishments across the country." stated TAI in a press release.

HRC Stewards postpone opening day's races

The Stewards of the Hyderabad Race Club (HRC) have resolved to postpone the first day of the Hyderabad Monsoon Races 2023, scheduled to be held on July 24 (Monday) to August 1 (Tuesday) due to administrative reasons.

However, the season will kick-start from July 31 (Monday), the second day as per the schedule published in the prospectus.

Indiver Sairem clinches second gold

Creating a ripple: Palak (MP), Shravani (Maharashtra) and Indiver (SSCB) won their second diving gold.

AQUATICS

Sports Bureau
CHENNAI

Indiver Sairem of SSCB won his second gold in the boys Group-I platform event of the National sub-junior and junior aquatics championships in diving and water polo here on Thursday.

In the water polo boys' semifinals, Bengal will take on Kerala while Maharashtra will meet Karnataka.

In the water polo girls' last-four clash, Bengal plays Kerala while Maharashtra will challenge Karnataka.

The results: Diving: 3m spring board: Boys: Group-II: Risav Das (SSCB) 323.10, 2. Rupam Gogoi (Asm) 278.85 pts, 3. Swaraj Lad (Mah) 275.80.

Girls: Group-II: 1. Sharavani Suryawanshi (Mah) 252.10, 2. Avani Yadav (MP) 194.30, 3. Swejal Verma (MP) 190.05.

Platform: Boys: Group-I: 1. Indiver Sairem (SSCB) 348.20, 2. Premson Meitei (SSCB) 346.10, 3. Dexson Singh (Man) 297.50.

Girls: Group-I: 1. Palak Sharma (MP) 254.45, 2. Koel Sil (Ben) 244.70, 3. Keya Prabhu (Mah) 217.70.

EDUCATION HUB

A Business Initiative

UP Global Investor Summit on Higher Education meet led by Dr. M R Jayaram, Chancellor of Ramaiah University with the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh

The high-level delegation from the Education Promotion Society for India (EPSI) was held at the Hon'ble Chief Minister of UP Shri Yogi Adityanath ji residence. The meeting aimed to explore potential avenues for investment and collaboration in the field of higher education in UP. During the meeting, the EPSI delegation presented their vision for enhancing the quality of higher education in UP and their commitment to promoting innovation, research, and entrepreneurship among students. They discussed various proposals and initiatives that could be undertaken to attract global investment and expertise to the state. Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Yogi Adityanath ji acknowledged the importance and assured full support from the state government to Higher Education Institutions if they establish campuses in UP. Dr. M R Jayaram, Chancellor of Ramaiah University and leader of the EPSI delegation, expressed his gratitude to the hon'ble Chief minister for his valuable insights and unwavering support. The EPSI delegation and the hon'ble Chief minister concluded the meeting on a positive note, expressing their shared commitment to transforming Uttar Pradesh into a global education hub and driving excellence in higher education.

'Adhiveshana-2023', State-level Management Fest arranged at Nitte Meenakshi Institute of Technology, Bengaluru.

K.S. Narayanaswamy, President, Bangalore Management Association and well known entrepreneur inaugurated 'Adhiveshana-2023' and opined due to automation technology, the traditional jobs are disappearing and new jobs with special skills are evolving. In this background, he said we need to expose our students to the new atmosphere, creative interactions to enable them to become future leaders. Nearly 40 teams representing Management Institutions across Karnataka participated in the competition arranged to nurture talent among Management students. The Prizes were awarded to the best performers.

The subjects varied from Finance to Design Thinking, keeping in view of the needs of Industries. Dr. H.C. Nagaraj was the Guest of Honor. Rohit Punja, Administrator, Nitte Education Trust presided over the function. Dr. Shilpa Ajay, Head, Department of Management Studies (MBA) at NMIT proposed vote of thanks.

Presidency University conducted International conference titled "Towards a Sustainable Future : Innovations & Strategies for Responsible Business Practices"

Keeping the theme of Sustainability for future generations at the core of all fields and specializations, the School of Management, Presidency University is proud to have conducted an international conference in association with IQS School of Management, Universitat Ramon Llull, Spain, and HTWG Konstanz University, Germany. The Conference welcomed academicians, research scholars, and industry practitioners to submit original research papers in the streams of Eco-branding, Green Marketing, and Advertising, Sustainability and Digital Marketing, Impact of Disruptive Technology, Industry 4.0 and Green Manufacturing, AI for Social Good and Sustainability, and Operations Strategy and Sustainability, and Applied Management Perspectives among other similar themes. The selected best-quality papers shall be taken for publication in Scopus-indexed international journals of repute, namely: the Iranian Journal of Management and Applied Management Perspectives. The conference has lined up international academicians from Russia, Spain, and Germany to address the participants.

Inauguration of the activities of the Publication Division of the Sharnbasva University at Doddappa Appa Auditorium.

On the occasion of the inauguration in Sharnbasva University noted Educator and Motivational Speaker Dr Gururaj Karajgi said that the Education which is taught in the Centres of Higher Education should be relevant to the future professional career and noted that what is being taught in the colleges and universities now becomes irrelevant by the time the students step out of the educational institutions. The centres of higher education should teach the designed curriculum along with how the students should learn to be self confident and face the challenges in the professional world. The values learnt in the schools and colleges should remain green for ever throughout your life, he told the students in the jam packed Doddappa Appa Auditorium. Secretary of the Sharanabasaveshwar Vidya Vardak Sangha Mr Basavaraj Deshmukh inaugurating the event spoke high about Dr Karajagi and said that the University and Sangha would take full benefit of Dr Karajagi's experience and knowledge in the field of education and involve him in all the future academic activities. Registrar of the University Dr Anilkumar Bidve welcomed. Chairperson of the Kannada Department Dr Kalyanrao Patil made introductory remarks and detailed the activities of the prasaranga and the activities of the different research chairs.

CLASSIFIEDS MART

TO ADVERTISE VISIT
www.thehinduads.com
CALL: Bengaluru: 98455 29981 • 080-22071826
Mangaluru: 0824-2417575 • 2417580
Hubballi: 0836-2338600 • 2335700

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

WE, SRIDEVI Ingaleshwar W/o Nachiket Ingaleshwar and Nachiket Ingaleshwar S/o Siddaling Ingaleshwar, both residing at # House No 7, Sri Ramakrishna Nilaya, Sena Nagar, DIET Road, Vijayapura – 586108, have changed our son name from ARYA INGALESHWAR to ARYA TEJASWI INGALESHWAR vide affidavit Dt: 11–July–2023 sworn before notary Venkatesha Patwardhan, Mysore.

I Varun Shankar Arakkal Koottappanakkal S/O, Asok Kumar R/o 307, Niranjan Genesis, Mylasandra Road, Yelenahalli, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560068 have changed my name to Varun Shankar for all purposes.

CORRECTION OF NAME

I, **Mohammed Ibrahim**, Aged about 85 years, S/o Late Kasim Hassain, presently residing at #312, 4th A Cross, 3rd Block, HRBR Layout, Kalyan Nagar Post Office, Bengaluru 560 043 hereby state that I am married to Smt. SYEDA HASHMATHUNNISA on 6th March 1966. I further state that the name of my wife mentioned in my official records as **"SYEDA HASHMATH"** and the same is hereby corrected as **"SYEDA HASHMATHUNNISA"**, as per vide affidavit Dt: 18.07.2023 sworn before Notary and Advocate Sri. N Narayana Swamy, Bengaluru.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **Kumari ALICE LILY ROSE**, D/o Late M. Shekar and Smt. Meghana Varsha, aged about 28 years, R/at No. 40, 6th Cross, 6th Block, 2nd Stage, Nagarabhavi, BDA Complex, Bangalore-560072, do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **RAKSHITHA APARNA** to **ALICE LILY ROSE**, henceforth I shall be known and called as **ALICE LILY ROSE** only, vide affidavit dated 10-07-2023, sworn before Advocate and Notary **H.R. KARUNAKARA** at Bangalore.

TENDERS

Oushadhi
The Pharmaceutical Corporation (I.M.) Kerala Ltd.
(A Govt. of Kerala Undertaking)
Kuttanellur, Thrissur-14, Kerala
Ph: 0487- 2459841, 2459842, 2459807
E-mail : purchase@oushadhi.org
P/74/2023-24 Date: 21.7.2023

TENDER NOTICE

Tenders are invited for the supply of **I)** Raw Materials and **II)** Containers & Packing Materials for the period **1st October 2023 to 31st March 2024**. Tenders can be downloaded from the website **www.oushadhitender.com**. For more details, please visit our website **www.oushadhi.org** or contact our Purchase Division at Kuttanellur.
Thrissur (Sd/-) Managing Director

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, LODHI Yaseen, W/o Khaleel Ulla, R/at No.82/1, Mackan Road, Bharathinagar, Bengaluru–56001 have changed my name from Lodhi Yaseen to Yaseen vide affidavit dated 18–07–2023 before Notary Y.R.Chandrasekar, Bangalore.

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE IV ADDL, CITY CIVIL JUDGE MAYOHALL UNIT AT BANGALORE (CCH-21)
O.S. NO. 25443/2023
BETWEEN
ICICI Bank Limited, Having its Registered office at Land mark, Race Course Circle, Vadodara - 390 007 and having its Corporate office at ICICI Bank Towers, Bandra Kurla Complex, Bandra (East), Mumbai- 400 051 and its branch office at Mysthree Centre, 4/10, Hosur Road, Bommanahalli, Bangalore- 560 068 Represented by its Relationship Manager and POA Holder Ms. Mansi Singh
...PLAINTIFF
AND :
Sri. V Chaithanya
...DEFENDANT
SUMMONS TO DEFENDANT
To,
Sri. V Chaithanya, S/o Sri. Vaddi Venkatesulu, Aged about 32 years, No.124, 4th Cross, Agrahara Layout, Ittige Factory, Yelahanka, Near Sadanand Ashrama, Bangalore- 560 064
WHEREAS the Plaintiff has instituted above said suit against you for recovery of Rs.3,95,420/- (Rupees Three Lakh Ninety Five Thousand Four Hundred Twenty Only) together with interest @ 24% p.a., cost of the suit and to grant such other or further order relief. The above mentioned Defendant hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble IV Additional City Civil & Sessions Judge (CCH - 21) in person or through a Counsel who can able to answer the claim made against you on 29/08/2023 at 11:00 a.m. failing which the suit is heard and disposed ex-parte.
given under my hand and the seal of the Hon'ble Court on this 12/07/2023.
BY ORDER OF THE HON'BLE COUR
DEPUTY REGISTRAR, CITY CIVIL COURT, MAYOHAL UNIT, BANGALORE
ADVOCATE FOR PLAINTIFF
SA Associates, No.10, 7th Cross, Victoria Layout, Bangalore- 560 047

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ಕೊಡಗು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಹಿಂದುಳಿದ ವರ್ಗಗಳ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿಯವರ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಕೊಡಗು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ
ದೇವರಾಜ ಅರಸು ಭವನ, ಜನರಲ್ ತಿಮ್ಮಯ್ಯ ಕ್ರೀಡಾಂಗಣ, ಮ್ಯಾನ್ಸ್ ಕಾಂಪೌಂಡ್ ಹತ್ತಿರ, ಕೊಡಗು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಮಡಿಕೇರಿ–571201, ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 08272–295628
Email ID: dobcmkodagu@gmail.com
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಹಿಂವಕಇ/ಹೊರ.ಸಂ.ಟೆಂಡರ್/ಸಿಆರ್–23/2023–24 ದಿನಾಂಕ:19–07–2023
ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ
ದಿನಾಂಕ : 18–07–2023ರಂದು ಹೊರಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲ ಏಜೆನ್ಸಿ ಮೂಲಕ ಸೇವೆಯನ್ನು ಪಡೆಯಲು ಈ ಕಚೇರಿಯಿಂದ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗಿತ್ತು. ಸದರಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ ವಿಳಾಸವನ್ನು https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ಎಂದು ಓದಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದು ಎಂದು ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ, ಹಿಂದುಳಿದ ವರ್ಗಗಳ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿ, ಕೊಡಗು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆರವರು ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ತಿಳಿಸಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ.
ಸಹಿ/– ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ,
ಹಿಂದುಳಿದ ವರ್ಗಗಳ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಕೊಡಗು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಮಡಿಕೇರಿ

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ಕೊಡಗು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ
ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಹಿಂದುಳಿದ ವರ್ಗಗಳ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿಯವರ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಕೊಡಗು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ
ದೇವರಾಜ ಅರಸು ಭವನ, ಜನರಲ್ ತಿಮ್ಮಯ್ಯ ಕ್ರೀಡಾಂಗಣ, ಮ್ಯಾನ್ಸ್ ಕಾಂಪೌಂಡ್ ಹತ್ತಿರ, ಕೊಡಗು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಮಡಿಕೇರಿ–571201, ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 08272–295628
Email ID: dobcmkodagu@gmail.com
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಹಿಂವಕಇ/ಆಹಾರ ಟೆಂಡರ್/ಸಿಆರ್–22/2023–24 ದಿನಾಂಕ:19–07–2023
ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ
ದಿನಾಂಕ : 18–07–2023ರಂದು ಹಿಂದುಳಿದ ವರ್ಗಗಳ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆಯ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿನಿಲಯಗಳಿಗೆ ಆಹಾರ ಪದಾರ್ಥಗಳು, ತರಕಾರಿ ಮತ್ತು ಇತರೆ ಸಾಮಗ್ರಿಗಳ ಪೂರೈಕೆಗಾಗಿ ಈ ಕಚೇರಿಯಿಂದ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಸದರಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ ವಿಳಾಸವನ್ನು https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ಎಂದು ಓದಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದು ಎಂದು ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ, ಹಿಂದುಳಿದ ವರ್ಗಗಳ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿ, ಕೊಡಗು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆರವರು ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ತಿಳಿಸಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ.
ಸಹಿ/– ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿ,
ಹಿಂದುಳಿದ ವರ್ಗಗಳ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಕೊಡಗು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಮಡಿಕೇರಿ

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ
ಟಿ. ಚೌಡಯ್ಯ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಕುಮಾರ ಪಾರ್ಕ್ ಪಶ್ಚಿಮ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು – 560 020.
ಸಂ: ಬೆಂಅಪ್ರಾ/ವಿಅಭೂಸ್ವಾಅ/283/2023–24 ದಿನಾಂಕ : 20.07.2023
ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದ ಜಯಪ್ರಕಾಶ್‌ನಗರ 8ನೇ ಹಂತ ಬಡಾವಣೆಗೆ (ಜೆ.ಪಿ.ನಗರ 8ನೇ ಹಂತ ಬಡಾವಣೆ) ಭೂಸ್ವಾಧೀನಪಡಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿರುವ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ದಕ್ಷಿಣ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು, ಉತ್ತರಹಳ್ಳಿ ಹೋಬಳಿ, ಕೊತ್ತನೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಸರ್ವೆ ನಂ.30ರ ಜಮೀನಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದಿಂದ ದಾಖಲಿಸಲಾಗಿರುವ ಮಾನ್ಯ ಸರ್ವೋಚ್ಚ ನ್ಯಾಯಾಲಯದ ಪ್ರಕರಣ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: Special Leave to Appeal(C) No(S): 10058/2023, ದಿನಾಂಕ:19.05.2023 ರ ಆದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರತಿವಾದಿಗಳಿಗೆ Issue notice to the respondents, Dasti service, in addition is permitted. If service is completed, list the matter during last week of July 2023 ಎಂದು ಆದೇಶವಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಆದರಂತೆ, ಪ್ರಕರಣದ ಪ್ರತಿವಾದಿಗಳಾದ (1) Sri R.Adhikesavulu Naidu s/o R Krishnama Naidu, (2) Sri C R Ram Mohan Raju s/o Chengama Raju, (3) Sri Srinivas Bhat s/o Late Subraya Bhat K, (4) Smt Kusuma Moorthy w/o B Krishna Moorthy, (5) Sri B Rajesh s/o Late Madhava Rao, (6) Sri Arun Ramakumar s/o R Ramakumar-Rep By His General Power of Attorney Holder Smith C Prasad, (7) Smt Vasanthi Ramakumar w/o R Ramakumar, (8) Smt Smith C Prasad w/o Deepak Ramakumar, (9) Sri Lakshmappa @ Lakshmaiah s/o Motappa, (10) Sri Ananda s/o Lakshmappa @ Lakshmaiah ರವರುಗಳಿಗೆ ರಿಟ್ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:15015–15019/2011(ಎಲ್‌ಎ–ಬಿಡಿಎ) & 15020–15024/2011ರ ಪ್ರತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಲಭ್ಯವಿರುವ ವಿಳಾಸದಂತೆ ತಿಳುವಳಿಕೆ ಪತ್ರವನ್ನು ಖುದ್ದು ಜಾರಿ ಮಾಡಲು ಕ್ರಮ ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಆದರೆ ರಿಟ್ ಅರ್ಜಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ನಮೂದಾಗಿರುವ ವಿಳಾಸಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರತಿವಾದಿಗಳು ಲಭ್ಯವಿರುವುದಿಲ್ಲ, ಹಾಗೂ ವಿಳಾಸಗಳು ತಪ್ಪಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ, ಆದ್ದರಿಂದ ಮಾನ್ಯ ನ್ಯಾಯಾಲಯದ ಆದೇಶದ ಪ್ರತಿಯನ್ನು ಜಾರಿ ಮಾಡಲು ಸಾಧ್ಯವಾಗಿರುವುದಿಲ್ಲ. ಆದರಂತೆ ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡ ಪ್ರತಿವಾದಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಪತ್ರಿಕಾ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾನ್ಯ ಸರ್ವೋಚ್ಚ ನ್ಯಾಯಾಲಯದ ಪ್ರಕರಣ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: Special Leave to Appeal(C) No(S):10058/2023 ರ ದಿನಾಂಕ:19.05.2023ರ ಆದೇಶವನ್ನು ಜಾರಿ ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.
ಸಹಿ/- ವಿಶೇಷ ಆಪರ ಭೂಸ್ವಾಧೀನಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, ಬೆಂಅಪ್ರಾ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY G2
Tender Notice No. ECN-TRD-11-2023
Dated: 17-07-2023
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-tenders for the following works:

Name of Work	Appx. Value
Survey for electrification of Vyasa Colony - Amravathi Colony (120 RKM / 150 TKM) section of SWR.	Rs. 21,19,000/-

Last date for submission of bids: **Up to 15:00 hrs. of 10.08.2023**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer/TRD/CN Bengaluru Cantonment
PUB/251/AAV/PRB/SWR/2023-24
S.W.Railways SWRRLY SWRRLY

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY G2
E-Tender Notice No. ECN-TRD-12-2023
Dated: 14-07-2023
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tender for the following work:

Name of work	Approx. Value
Balance work for recommissioning of Yelahanka Traction Sub Station.	Rs. 92,95,930.70

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 07-08-2023**
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Deputy Chief Electrical Engineer Traction Distribution (Construction), Bengaluru
PUB/248/AAD/PRB/SWR/2023-24
S.W.Railways SWRRLY SWRRLY

Your feedback will keep us Cleaner, Sharper and Bolder
Call our toll-free number **1800 102 1878**
Or write to us at **customercare@thehindu.co.in**
Scan the QR code to register your feedback
THE HINDU businessline.
FRONTLINE SPORTSTAR THE HINDU Young World THE HINDU

INSTITUTE OF LIVER & BILIARY SCIENCES (ILBS)

ilbs **"CAREER OPPORTUNITIES"**
Faculty & Non-Faculty Posts
(ILBS/Careers/5/23)

Addendum: In continuation to advertisement dated 02.07.2023, applications are invited on the prescribed online application form to fill up the following additional posts on contract basis for a period of 'four years' (except for Residents) which can be extended based on performance:

(A) Applications invited for UR (Unreserved), OBC, EWS & SC category

S. No.	Name of Post	Number of Post
1.	Sr. Professor (Medicine)	1-UR
2.	Assistant Professor (Nephrology)	1-UR
3.	Consultant (Nuclear Medicine) Grade IV	1-UR
4.	Sr. Fellow (Non Medical) Biotechnology	1-UR
5.	Casualty Medical Officer	1-UR, 1-OBC, 1-SC
6.	Blood Bank Officer	1-UR
7.	Head Operations (Medical)	1-UR
8.	Manager (Nursing)	1-UR
9.	Sr. Resident (Hepatology, Radiology, Nephrology, Critical care)	9-UR, 3-OBC, 1-SC
10.	Assistant Lab Manager	1-UR
11.	Assistant Manager IT (Programmer)	1-UR
12.	Assistant Manager (Store)	1-UR
13.	Executive (Finance & Accounts)	1-UR
14.	Junior Engineer (Electrical/AC)	3-UR, 1-OBC
15.	Junior Executive (IT)	1-UR
16.	Junior Nurse	08-UR, 02-OBC, 1-EWS
(B) SPECIAL DRIVE BACKLOG FOR OBC & EWS CATGORY		
17.	Junior Nurse	10- OBC, 2- EWS
18.	Executive Nurse	22 -OBC, 9-EWS
19.	Jr. Executive Nurse	8-OBC, 2-EWS

The last date of receipt of applications is **hereby extended to 5th August,2023. For further details and other posts of faculty and non-faculty,please visit** http://www.ilbs.in.
Deputy Head (HR), ILBS

"HEALTHY LIVER – HEALTHY INDIA"
24 Hr Emergency, Liver Ambulance & Helpline: 1-800-11-5354, Ph.: 011-463 00 000

ವಿಶ್ವೇಶ್ವರಯ್ಯ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾಲಯ
"ಜ್ಞಾನ ಸಂಗಮ", ಬೆಳಗಾವಿ–590018, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ, ಭಾರತ
Ref.VTU/BGM/SAP/CW4/T-629/2022-2023/ 2100 Date :20/07/2023
TENDER NOTIFICATION
The Registrar, VTU, Belagavi, invites tenders (Two cover system) for the following work Name of work: "Tender for Procurement of Tools, Accessories and Measuring Instruments for CNC Machines in workshop and Mechanical Engineering Dept of P.G. Centre, VTU Belgavi" . Amount put to tender as below :

Sl. No	Description	Tender value	EMD
1	Schedule I: Measuring Instruments for CNC Machine Lab	Rs.3,77,750/-	Rs.9500/-
2	Schedule II: VMC and Drill Tap Tooling and Accessories	Rs.8,42,892/-	Rs.21,100/-
3	Schedule III: CNC Lathe Tooling and Accessories	Rs.2,93,250/-	Rs.7,500/-
4	Schedule IV: Accessories and General Hardware Items	Rs.4,84,430/-	Rs.12,100/-

Last date for receipt of tender 04/08/2023 up to 2.30 p.m. Date of opening of tender: 05/08/2023 at 04 .00 p.m. The details regarding participation in the tendring can be accessed by logging to our VTU website:www.vtu.ac.in. and www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in
DIPR/BGM/RO-NO-198/KSMCA/2023-24

Government of Karnataka
OFFICE OF THE Department of Minority welfare Department Koppal
S.No:DMWDK/OUTSOURCE/CR-2023-24/379 Date:19.07.2023
E-Tender Notification
Subject :- 2023-24 Out Source Group-C & Group-D Staff Tender called for the Minority Welfare Department, District office, District Minority Information Center, Taluk Minority Information Centers, Minority Hostels, MMDR Schools, GMMDGPUR Colleges Etc.,
01.E-Tender Date : **19.07.2023.** 02.E-Tender Amount: **Approximate-368.00 Lakhs.** 03.EMD Amount: **Rs. 5.52 Lakhs.** 04.E-Tender form Rate: **5000.00.** 05.E-Tender Starting Date: **19.07.2023.** 06.Pre Bid Meeting Date & Place: **24.07.2023 Time : 11.30 AMDistrict Officer,Minority Welfare Department, Hospet Road, Koppal(it may be changing the Date).** 07. Last Date and time for E-Tender Submission: **Date : 19.08.2023Time : 5.00 AM.** 08.Technical Bid Open date, & Place: **23.08.2023Time : 11.00 AM(it may be changing the Date).** 09.Financial Bid Open date, & Place: **29.08.2023 Time : 11.30 AM(it may be changing the Date).** 10.For More Information, Contact Us: **Website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.inDistrict Officer,Minority Welfare Department, KoppalLand Line : 08539-225070 at Office Time**
Sd/- (SURESH KOKARE) District officer Minority Welfare Department Koppal.
DIPR/Koppal/72/KSMCA/2023-24

A BG-BGE

New chapter of Messi's career kicks off with Miami debut

Fans eager to see the legendary footballer in action as seats at the DRV PNK Stadium fill up quickly; the club has been forced to rush and add renovations to the stadium to meet the increasing demand after Leo's arrival

MLS

Associated Press
FORT LAUDERDALE

The seats at DRV PNK Stadium filled up quickly with fans eager to get a glimpse at Inter Miami's new superstar.

Lionel Messi – arguably the greatest soccer player ever – stood on a runway in the middle of the field looking out at his new home. "Thank you Miami," Messi said to the crowd. "I'm happy to be here."

The next chapter of the 36-year-old's storied career will begin here. Not at Camp Nou in Barcelona or Parc des Princes in Paris, but at Inter Miami's DRV PNK Stadium – a cozy venue in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, decorated with the team's pink and black colours.

Messi will make his Inter Miami debut on Friday against Cruz Azul in the League's Cup. Coach Tata Martino said on Wednesday that he hasn't decided if Messi and fellow Inter Miami newcomer Sergio Busquets will start, or how long they will play.

Ready to roll: Messi would look to put his skills to best use for Inter Miami. AP

Added attention

When the seven-time Ballon d'Or winner announced in June that he would join Inter Miami, the club – which is only in its fourth season – had to rush to add renovations to the stadium to accommodate the added attention.

Inter Miami for now plays home matches at the 18,000-seat stadium about 45 minutes north of the site in Miami where the team wants to build a permanent complex.

DRV PNK Stadium was built on the previously named Lockhart Stadium, which was originally designed for high school sports. It sits across the street from Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport, where Messi and his family arrived last week.

Silver bleachers were added last week to the northeast and southeast corners, increasing capacity by about 3,000 seats.

That will still leave it well short of the nearly 100,000 seats at Camp Nou, where Messi rose to international stardom.

"You probably could never add enough seats to accommodate all of the interest that the team is experiencing," said Stephanie Toothaker, outside counsel for Inter Miami.

"I think we've done as much as we can in such a short period of time."

Superstars: Inter Miami co-owner Beckham with Messi. AFP

Inter Miami co-owner David Beckham can relate to the adjustment of coming from overseas to play in MLS.

Beckham in 2007 joined the LA Galaxy after spending the early years of his career playing at Old Trafford with Manchester United then at Santiago Bernabeu Stadium with Real Madrid.

The league was much different when Beckham made his transition.

"I think there was 15 teams in the league at that point," Beckham said.

"Not many teams had soccer-specific stadiums. Now, there's 30 teams in the league, and most of the teams have stadiums."

Russian, Belarusian gymnasts can take part in international meets

Agence France-Presse
PARIS

Russian and Belarusian gymnasts will be allowed to compete in international competitions as "individual neutral athletes" from January 1, the sport's governing body said.

In March 2022, gymnasts from both countries were banned from taking part in international competitions in response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

The International Gymnastics Federation (FIG) said in a statement on Wednesday that it had authorised "the participation of athletes and support personnel of Russian and Belarusian sporting nationality in FIG sanctioned events listed on the FIG Calendar as 'individual neutral athletes'".

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Chiranth slams an unbeaten 169

D. Chiranth top-scored with an unbeaten 169 as Victory CC thrashed Unique CC by 195 runs in the KSCA (Group I) under-16 inter-club cricket tournament.

The scores: Victory 315/6 in 50 overs (S. Abhiraj 32, D. Chiranth 169 n.o., Vedanta Sharma 87 n.o., H. Adithya 3/37) bt Unique 120 in 40.5 overs (P.V. Pavan 31, Sudip Karthick 26, M.S. Koushik 3/22, R. Sathvik 3/19).

Palace Orchard 72 in 24.5 overs lost to Eminent Cricketers 73/1 in 8.2 overs (R. Uday Charan 40, Kashif Ahmed Ali 25 n.o.).

Minerva 111 in 27.1 overs (Siddharth Rajesh Nair 42, P. Siddarth 5/39, Moksh Nahar 4/14) lost to Young Challenging Cricketers 112/7 in 24.3 overs (P. Siddarth 26, S. Adhithyan 3/27, B. Abhay 3/19).

Friends XI, Doddaballapura 163 in 38 overs (Rajit Kanjilal 5/19) lost to Bharath 164/3 in 22.2 overs (Vrithwik Hegde 31, G. Monish 34 n.o.).

Merchants (2) 63 in 25.2 overs (M.D. Dharsh 5/19) lost to The Bangalore Cricketers 64/2 in 9.2 overs (S. Daivik 29).

National United 104 in 25.2 overs (Md. Yajath Gowda 49, C. Vaibhav 3/30, S. Jayanth Srinivas 3/20, K.S. Mokhit 3/9) lost to Vultures 106/2 in 20.2 overs (B.R. Abhay Surya 45, N. Bhuvan Gowda 45 n.o.).

Merchants (1) 116 in 47.1 overs (Sreearjun Balusu 27, Saksham Agarwal 3/28, Milan Dhami 3/22) lost to Coles 117/1 in 15.4 overs (Nikhil George 79 n.o.).

Yankees 175/7 in 40 overs (G. Pranav 25, Suryansh Pandey 31, Syed Zayeem Aga 46) lost to Bowlers 139/3 in 23 overs (B. Vaibhav 41 n.o.). **On better run-rate owing to rain interruptions**.

Canarese 164 in 37.3 overs (Mohammed Kaif Ur Rehman 34, Nischal Dayanand 31, Arnav Gurudatta Mewundi 4/29) bt Blue Diamond Cricketers 98/3 in 23 overs (Yashas B. Charantimath 28 n.o.). **On better run-rate owing to rain interruptions**.

Avyam stars for Young Orions

Avyam starred for Young Orions with 27 points as it defeated S. Blues 46-38 in a boys' semifinal league match of the State sub-junior basketball championship on Thursday.

The results (semifinal league):
Boys: Young Orions 46 (Avyam 27) bt S. Blues 38 (Raghav 16, Shivank 16); MCHS 66 (Pradyum 25, Asher 22) bt Vimanapura 46 (Shreyash 14, Pranti 10).
Girls: All Star Academy, Mysore 29 (Aanchal 16) bt Young Orions 27 (Manasvi 13); S. Blues 35 (Adel 17) bt Appaiah 13.

KSP, SAI in a 3-3 draw

Prajwal scored a 57th-minute equaliser as KSP shared the spoils with SAI in a 3-3 draw in the Hockey Karnataka League Championship on Thursday.

The results:
KSP 3 (Pradeep 20, 36, Prajwal 57) drew with SAI 3 (Dhanush Kaverappa 17, 39, D. Pavan 55); Canara Bank 2 (Pruthvi Raj 21, K. Somaiah 52) bt DYES-B 1 (R. Vrushab 38).

Hat-trick by Sarath Raj

Sarath Raj came up with a hat-trick as Super Strikers FC blanked Legends De Sporting FC 9-0 in the KSFA Bangalore North & South C-division league on Thursday.

The results:
Black Moon 1 (Mark Stephen 70) bt Yalahanka 0; Freelancers 3 (Akhil K. Verghese 29, K. Bharath 49, Sumit Sharma 69) bt Blues 0; Bangalore Super Strikers 9 (Sarath Raj 3, 4, 20, Sanit Krishnan 6, Ajmal 21, N. Fahad Fasil 29, Muhammed Ranees 31, 33, Yogesh 40) bt Legends De Sporting 0; Pioneer 1 (A. Pradeep Raj 40) bt Williams 0.

State-ranking table tennis tournament

The Karnataka Table Tennis Association will conduct its second state-ranking tournament from July 28 to 31 at Prakash Courts, The Canara Union, Malleswaram.

Entries close on July 24. Call M. Sham on 82177 96386 for more details.

GLOBAL NCAP
India's Safest Family Car

Exchange Benefits up to ₹ 60 000#
Corporate Benefits up to ₹ 60 000#
4-Years Complimentary Maintenance Package**
Up to 100% On-Road Funding^
Extended Warranty Benefits up to ₹ 4 000##
246 Touchpoints Across India
Toll-free 1800 2700 260
www.skoda-auto.co.in

Sales: Bengaluru: (HSR Layout): TAFE Access: 7874223333; (St. Marks Road): TAFE Access: 7874223333; (Jakkur): PPS Motors: 8800776947; (Sadashivanagar): PPS Motors: 8800776947; (Mahadevpura): Raja Motors: 7230087090; (JP Nagar): TAFE Access: 080-41000032; (Mysore Road): PPS Motors: 8800776947; (Rajajinagar): PPS Motors: 8800776947; (Kalyan Nagar): PPS Motors: 8800776947; (Sarjapur): TAFE Access: 7874223333; (Bommasandra): Raja Motors: 18002022866; **Mangalore:** TAFE Access: 7874334444; **Hubli:** Priti Cars: 7518701229/9902056184; **Mysore:** (Koorgalli Industrial Estate): Palace ŠKODA: 0821-6615555; (New Kantharaj URS Road): Palace ŠKODA: 0821-6615555/6366955730; **Belgaum:** Priti Cars: 7518701222/9902056184; **Tumkur:** PPS Motors: 8800776947; **Udupi:** TAFE Access: 7874334444; **Shivammogga:** TAFE Access: 7874334444; **Bellary:** PPS Motors: 8800776947
Service: Bengaluru: (Off Hosur Road): TAFE Access: 9591998570; (Hennur Road): PPS Motors: 8800776947; (Sreerampura Okhlipuram): PPS Motors: 8800776947; (Mahadevpura): Raja Motors: 9620018618; (Mysore Road): PPS Motors: 8800776947; **Mangalore:** TAFE Access: 9384822472; **Hubli:** Priti Cars: 9686205095; **Mysore:** Palace ŠKODA: 0821-6615555; **Tumkur:** PPS Motors: 8800776947; **Bellary:** PPS Motors: 8800776947; **Shivammogga:** TAFE Access: 7874223333

Scan the QR code to explore our latest ad

^T&C Apply. Delivery of the car is subject to stock availability. Credit at sole discretion of the financer. Sales offers may vary from variant to variant on selected stocks. #Corporate/Loyalty/special alliance offers cannot be clubbed together. Specifications given differ from model to model. Always insist on genuine Škoda Auto parts available at Škoda authorized dealer. **Complimentary SMP is applicable on select models and variants. Warranty - 4 Years [2 Years standard warranty, promotional offers on extended warranty]; ##Extended Warranty - discount of ₹ 3 000 on selected variants of Kushaq & Slavia and discount of ₹ 4 000 on selected variants of Kodiaq. Škoda Maintenance Package - 4 Years/60 000 km. 4-Year periodic maintenance services at an interval of 15 000 km or 1 year (whichever is earlier from the date of delivery). All disputes are subject to Mumbai courts only. Car is created with the help of computer graphics solely for the purpose of advertising.

BELT UP FOR A SAFE RIDE

A BG-BGE